



VALLEY  
ACADEMY



# Coyote News

## From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed. Principal



Welcome Back!

It is always my pleasure to begin a new school year with such a fantastic staff and a wonderful community of parents and children. I look forward to another fabulous school year.

As always, our goal at Valley is to ensure that our campus is safe and running efficiently. For it to be safe and efficient, everyone must follow the school's safety practices including our preferred drop-off and pick up procedures. We understand that only so many cars can legally park in our school's parking lots. Therefore, driving around campus and using our drop off/pick up areas is preferred. The lot in front of the office should be reserved for those needing to be on campus for administrative purposes. In addition, parents should not be parking in the red zones as they are for emergencies only. We understand that driving around the buildings takes more time in the morning and afternoon, but this is the safest option for every child, including yours. Here are some important suggestions that will make traffic flow safely and smoothly so that everyone's day can continue with ease.

Give yourself plenty of time to follow the correct drop-off and pick-up procedures.

If you need to park in a spot, please select one around the sides of campus or drive around to the east side of campus to safely enter the front lot from the east/ exit side of campus.

Never enter campus using the east "exit only" driveway on Rose Garden Lane. It is for exiting traffic only!

When traveling on Rose Garden Lane, please continue to drive unless children are in the crosswalk.

Be cautious when entering the campus. Children are present and therefore you must drive at a slow speed using great caution and care.

Valley Academy continually strives for the safest campus possible, and that requires your help. Thank you for supporting our school and our student safety procedures.

As a reminder, Rose Garden Lane remains closed for another week. Updates will be shared as we are informed. Thank you for your patience as our neighboring business is developing further.

My best,

Mrs. Victoria Brooks, M.Ed.

Principal

## Upcoming Events

**Spirit Day** Beginning in September, all students may participate in Spirit Day the first Friday of each month by wearing their Spirit Day shirt. Ordered shirts will be ready in time for October. K-8 may purchase Ice Cream during lunch.

**Progress Reports** Wednesday, September 6th. ParentVUE will have grades available to view.

**Early Release/Staff Development** Friday, September 15th. All students K-8 dismiss at 12:15 p.m. Preschool dismisses at 11:30 p.m. Teachers will participate in a Staff Development in-service.

**More Information Listed on Last Page**

For more information, please visit our website at [www.ValleyAcademy.com](http://www.ValleyAcademy.com)

### And now, a word from our Government ...

As a public school, Valley Academy is asked to make our families aware of certain state and governmental notices. Here they are, in a nutshell:

The "Move On When Reading" state policy, a result of the legislation in [A.R.S §15-701](#), [A.R.S §15-704](#), and [A.R.S §15-211](#) (as amended by [HB2026](#)) explains the requirements for pupil promotion, early literacy instruction, and accountability for student achievement in reading. It requires that a student not be promoted from third grade to fourth grade if he or she "does not demonstrate sufficient reading skills" on the state's third grade reading test in accordance with the statutes. For more info <https://www.azed.gov/mowr>

Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) – Parents are allowed to inspect school records and have an expectation of privacy in educational matters. Reid Traditional Schools does not share directory information for commercial purposes. For more information on FERPA rights, check out the Other Services area of our website, or ask the school office for assistance.

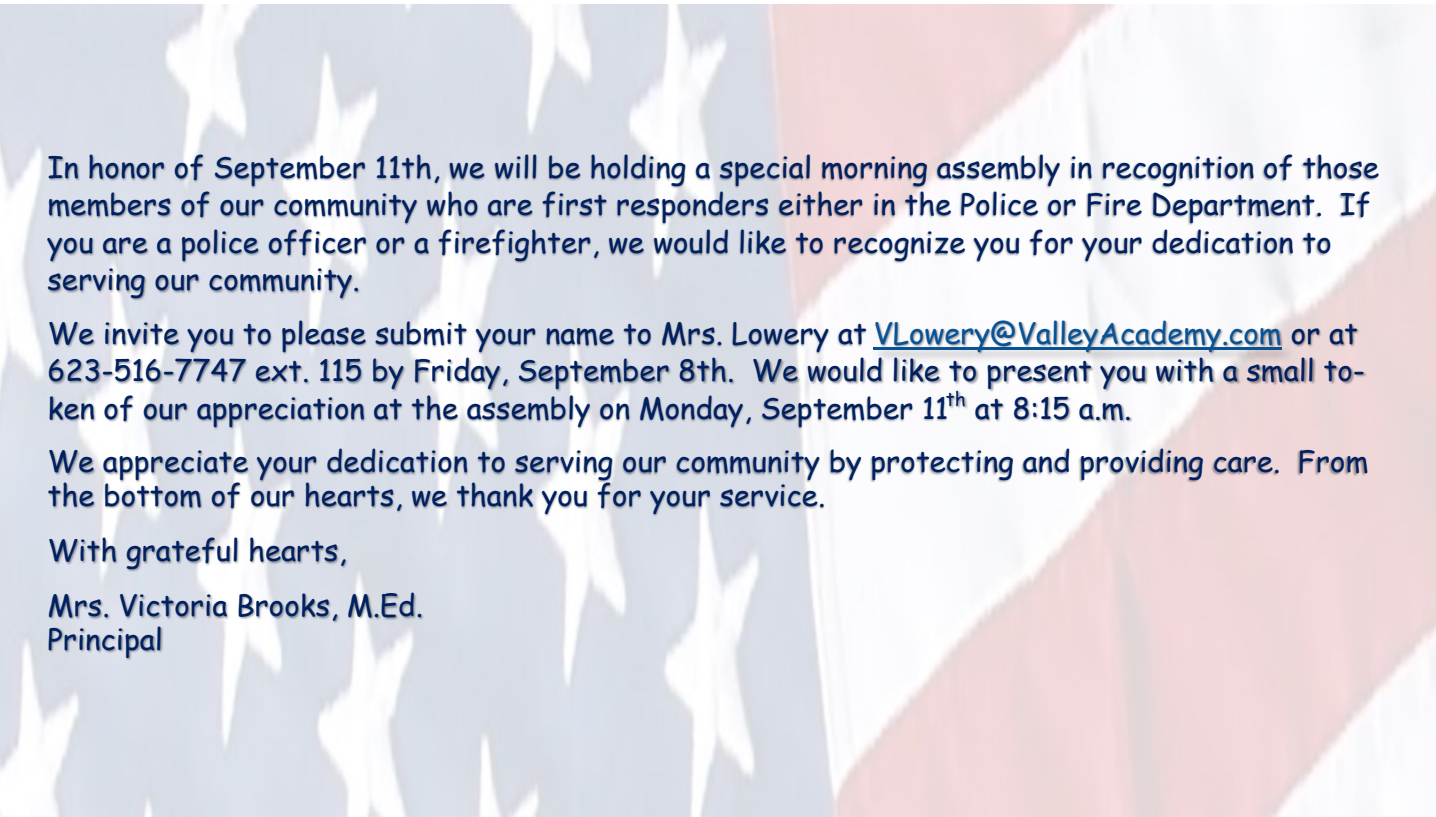
IRS Form 990 - A copy of the school's non-profit tax return is available in the school office upon request.

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) – The school has been inspected for asbestos and certified to be asbestos free. The required AHERA Management Plan and inspection materials are available in the school office.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – Students with disabilities are entitled to a copy of procedural safeguards. For more information, check out the Other Services section of Valley Academy's website, or ask the school office for assistance.

McKinney-Vento Act – Special guidelines on the enrollment and education of homeless children are outlined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. For more information, see [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

Get to know our teachers! All our teachers' profiles are available in the front office for your review.



In honor of September 11th, we will be holding a special morning assembly in recognition of those members of our community who are first responders either in the Police or Fire Department. If you are a police officer or a firefighter, we would like to recognize you for your dedication to serving our community.

We invite you to please submit your name to Mrs. Lowery at [VLowery@ValleyAcademy.com](mailto:VLowery@ValleyAcademy.com) or at 623-516-7747 ext. 115 by Friday, September 8th. We would like to present you with a small token of our appreciation at the assembly on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m.

We appreciate your dedication to serving our community by protecting and providing care. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your service.

With grateful hearts,

Mrs. Victoria Brooks, M.Ed.  
Principal

# Meet the Staff at Valley Academy!

## Administration & Office

Ms. Mitchell, M.Ed. - CEO  
Mrs. Brooks, M.Ed. - Principal  
Mrs. Breshears, M.Ed. - Asst. Principal  
Mrs. Lowery - Secretary  
Ms. Uhlving - Office Manager  
Mrs. Allen, RN - Health Office  
Mrs. Grimm - Receptionist

## Support Staff

Mr. Holt- Custodian  
Mrs. Munoz - Custodian  
Mrs. Schmidt - Food Service Mgr.  
Mrs. Wilkins -Food Service Asst.

## Preschool

Miss Burns  
Miss Uhlving

## Kindergarten

Miss Breshears  
Mrs. Johnson  
Miss Olson  
Mrs. Sutaris

## First Grade

Mrs. Francisco  
Ms. Schambach  
Mrs. Torta  
Mrs. Zahariades

## Second Grade

Mrs. Carpenter  
Mrs. Freeland  
Mrs. Rook  
Miss Webb

## Third Grade

Mrs. Ford  
Mrs. Keely  
Ms. Loreto  
Miss Magnusen

## Fourth Grade

Mr. Beckham  
Miss Hilgendorf  
Mr. Mitchell  
Ms. Ray

## Fifth Grade

Miss Block  
Mrs. Freeman  
Mrs. Lewandowsky

## Sixth Grade

Mrs. Copper  
Miss Gross  
Mr. Smith

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Mr. Bauer  
Miss Ekdahl  
Mrs. Matangi  
Ms. Rohr  
Mrs. Simon

## Special Area Teachers

Mrs. Dever - Library  
Mrs. Ferris - World Languages  
Mrs. Lander - Technology  
Mrs. Loveless - Music  
Coach Mims - P.E.  
Mrs. Watkins - Art  
Mrs. Carter - Speech  
Mrs. Godina - Resource  
Mrs. Calderon - Academic  
Compliance Coordinator  
Mrs. Kamat - Academic Tutor

## Coyote Club Aides

Mrs. Sengayan-  
Coordinator  
Mrs. Chennur  
Miss Goodrich  
Mrs. Gurram  
Mrs. Lingamarla  
Miss Malmsten  
Miss Rajkumar

## Classroom Aides

Mrs. Cummings  
Mrs. Escarcega  
Mrs. Godishala  
Mrs. Gurram  
Mrs. Huppert  
Ms. Ibanez  
Mrs. Jacob  
Mrs. Karumuri  
Miss Keely  
Miss Krog  
Mrs. Patel  
Mrs. Robinson  
Miss Scrip  
Mrs. Weston



## Welcoming New and Familiar Faces to Our Staff!



Hello! My name is Ms. Loreto and I am thrilled to be a part of the Valley Academy staff after a transfer from Painted Rock Academy. I started working with kids by babysitting them when I was very young. When most teens worked at common workplaces, I had my own piano studio with a dozen students.



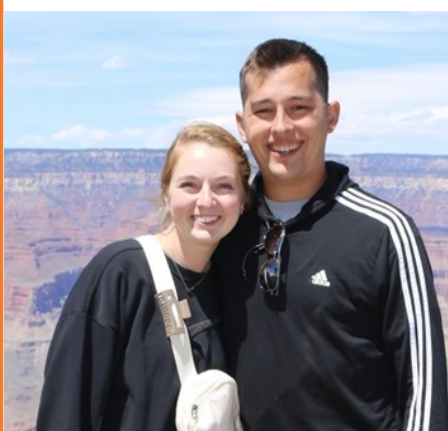
My passion to work in the school setting began when my older two children were little. They attended a traditional school in the northeast valley. I became intrigued by how they excelled in language arts by using the Spalding method. I went back to school and received a master's degree in education and then my journey began with the Spalding certification program and becoming a Spalding Certified Teacher Instructor. I am looking forward to sharing my talents in the Valley community.





## Welcoming New and Familiar Faces to Our Staff!

Hello! My name is Mr. Mitchell, and I have the amazing honor and privilege to join Valley Academy as a fourth grade teacher. I was a substitute teacher last year and fell in love with the students and staff. My desire to teach first started when I coached and refereed wrestling and tennis. This later turned into spending time volunteering in the U.S. History and Civics classes at Peoria High School while I was receiving my bachelor's degree at Grand Canyon University. My desire to teach stems from wanting to equip our future generations and watch them become the next leaders of the world. I spend my free time hiking, playing



games, playing pickleball, and mentoring young college men. I am not a person who likes to sit still, so I am always moving, being active, or being social. I am excited for this year and being part of the Valley Academy staff!

Hello! My name is Mrs. Dever. I am the new Librarian this year. Previously, I was an aide here at Valley Academy for five years. Before that, I nannied for a wonderful couple with two children. I was born and raised in Arizona. My childhood was spent in Buckeye. We moved to Phoenix about fifteen years ago. We have six children, the youngest of which is 16. I spent my summer with my four grandchildren, 14, 11 and 1-year old twins. In my "free time" I read, sew (a little), and crochet (a lot). I spend my Saturdays either with my grandchildren or selling my work at a local farmers market. I also volunteer at my church both in the bookstore and in the nursery.



Hi! My name is Miss Burns and I am so happy to be teaching preschool at Valley Academy this year! This will be my third school year at Valley Academy, and my first year teaching! I have been in kindergarten and preschool here as an aide prior and am very excited to be given the opportunity to have my own classroom. I adore working with this age range, getting to know them, and watching them grow. My goal is to help my kiddos become the best preschoolers they can be! I look forward to a fantastic year full of learning.



**We hope that you enjoyed your long weekend.**

**Reminder:** If your child need medication while at school, a parent or guardian must bring the medication to the nurse's office and fill out a form. No medications should be in a student's backpack without specific permission. This includes over the counter medications and homeopathic medications as well.

I would also like to remind you that if your child has a fever that is 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, they will need to stay home from school until it has been 24 hours **without a fever** and **without the use of fever reducing medication** (Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, Naproxen, or Aspirin). They will be sent home if brought to school too soon or if their temperature is over 100 degrees.

Thank you!

*Mrs. Emily Allen, RN*

Valley Academy Nurse



We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome your children back to campus for our 2023-2024 school year. We are so excited to have them here, and we look forward to an awesome year!

## Parent ID Badges

must be worn when on campus or you must get a sticker from the front office. If you still need to take your picture for a badge, please contact Mrs. Dever to set up an appointment at [JDever@ValleyAcademy.com](mailto:JDever@ValleyAcademy.com). Badges are \$5.00.



**Students in Preschool dismiss at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, September 15th, and students in grades K-8 dismiss at 12:15 p.m. for Early Release. Pick up locations are drive-thru, walk-up, and walkers that walk across the street. The office is not a pick up area.**

## Picture Day for K-8 Grades Wednesday, September 6, 2023

SAY CHEESE!



All students are photographed and must adhere to dress code for jewelry, hair, and uniform. Order forms can be sent with exact cash or check or online orders can be made at [Inter-State.com/Order](http://Inter-State.com/Order). Order Code is 80992PB. **Shipping and handling charges may apply to orders placed after Picture Day.**

## Preschool Picture Day

All students in preschool will be photographed on Thursday, September 7, 2023. Students must wear their uniform and will be photographed in the morning. Picture packets have already been sent home, and if you would like to purchase a picture packet, please return it to your child's teacher.



## SIXTH GRADE NEWS!

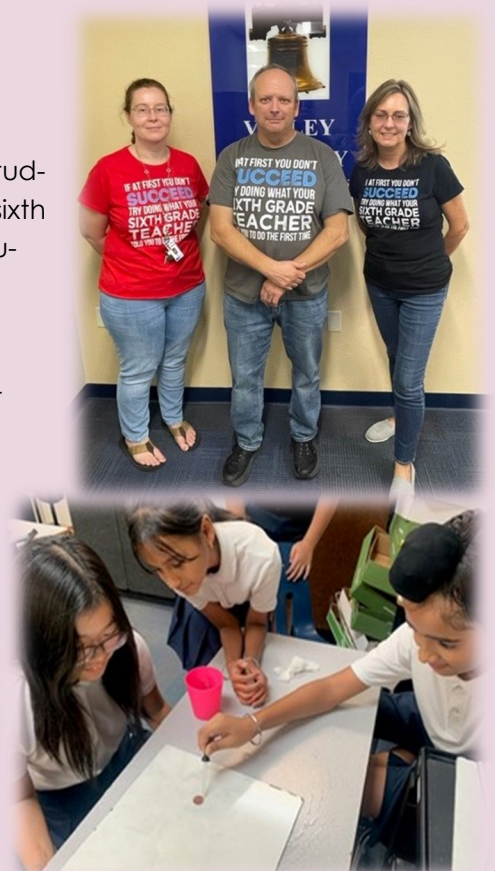
Welcome to Sixth Grade! In sixth grade, if at first you don't succeed, try, try again...or just try doing what your teacher told you to do the first time.

Meet our sixth grade team: Miss Gross, who teaches sixth grade Social Studies; Mr. Smith, over sixth grade Science; and Mrs. Copper, who teaches sixth grade Math. They make an excellent team and are here to help your students succeed!

Right now, the sixth grade is doing many interesting things.

In Science, students have just finished the scientific method and will next review the ocean and its properties and freshwater systems. In Math, students are working on fractions, decimals and number properties. Students in Social Studies have just completed a unit on mapping and are now working on ancient history and cultures. This quarter students are reading Tom Sawyer.

Pictured to the left is Twisha S. and Jensen B. To the right is Sophia N., Twisha S. and Gurshaan S.





## Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA)

Ms. Rohr, our 8th grade Math teacher wanted to recognize these awesome current 8th graders who earned a perfect score on the Math portion of AASA last spring. Only one former 8th grade accomplished this as well! We are so proud of them!

Pictured left to right: Advitaa D., Chinmayi A., Saathvik S. S., Sujan S. S., Neal R.



## Community Helpers visit Kindergarten!

Community Helpers visited our Kindergarten students last week to discuss how they are helping our community. Pictured to the left is Captain Johnson and Firefighter Deslo. Firefighter Deslo is in full gear to show students. To the right is Nurse Practitioner Cook-Gongora. She had lots of questions from inquiring minds. Thank you to this year's community helpers for visiting Kindergarten!





# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Spirit Day	2
3	4 No School Labor Day	5	6 Picture Day  Progress Reports Available Online	7 Preschool Pictures	8	9
10	11 9/11 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	12 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.  Caught Being Good	13	14	15 Early Release AM Specials 12:15 Dismissal  Staff Development	16
17 Scholastic Book Fair	18	19	20	21  Family Fun Night	22	23
24	25 Fundraiser Delivery	26	27	28  Board Meeting 6:15 p.m. Reid Offices	29	30