



Valle Verde Elementary  
400 Bershire Rd.  
Bakersfield CA. 93307  
(661) 837-6150 fax (661) 837-6159



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**Nicole Zandes**  
Principal

**Cristy Chambers**  
Assistant Principal

Dear Valle Verde Families,

We would like to welcome you and your family to another exciting year here at Valle Verde! Communication is key to a successful partnership between staff and our students' families. We encourage you to visit our Website at [gfusd.net](http://gfusd.net), read our Monthly Newsletters and all additional flyers that are sent home regularly, as well as check our Marquee to keep up to date with all school events. Included with this letter you will also find our Year at a Glance. I encourage you to post it on your refrigerator and note all of the exciting events we have planned throughout this school year.

New this year we have added Wednesday Minimum Days, Meet and Greet, Coffee and Convos, English as a Second Language classes, expanded TK Eligibility, expanded Music Program, and added in Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program. Other important information found below includes: Hours, Closed Campus/Safety, Attendance, Arrival/Dismissal Protocol, and Afterschool Program. Finally, Back to School Night and Parent Conferences are just around the corner and we look forward to seeing you then.

**Minimum Days:** Every Wednesday is a Minimum Day including Wed. 8/15, the first day of school. This is to allow for teacher collaboration time and professional development. Dismissal times are as follows:

TK-2nd @ 12:30

3rd-5th @ 12:50

**Meet and Greet:** This year we are bringing back our Meet and Greet which will take place on Tuesday, 8/14/18, from 8-9am. This is a time to come and find out who your child's teacher is, where their classroom is located, and meet them. If you can't make it at this time we will have an open campus the first 3 days of school, 8/15-8/17. At this time, we ask that you please fill out your emergency contact information, sign all needed signature pages, and register for your Parent Portal Account within in your child's classroom at this time. The Parent Portal allows you to access your child's grades and attendance and allows us to maintain communication with you.

**Coffee and Convos:** The last Friday of every month from 8-9am in our cafe' as a way to get together as parents and staff in an effort to best support your child. We hope that you will mark your calendars and join us.

**English as a Second Language:** This is being offered by Bakersfield Adult School here on our campus each Monday and Wednesday starting August 20th from 8-10:45am.

**Transitional Kindergarten (TK):** If your child's 5th birthday falls between September 2, 2018 and March 31, 2019 please come and enroll them for TK today. TK is an extra year of school offered on all of our campuses.

**Music Program:** Music has been expanded to include 3rd grade this year. 3rd and 4th graders will receive music each week and 5th graders will have the opportunity to participate in band.

**Breakfast, Lunch, and Snacks: (Breakfast, Lunch, and Snacks are FREE to ALL students)**

**First Breakfast:** First Breakfast is served daily to all students from 7:20 am-7:45 am.

**Second-Chance Breakfast:** Second Chance Breakfast is served daily during first recess to all students who did not eat First Breakfast.

**Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program:** This is new and available to all students three days a week.

**Menus:** These can be accessed on our district website at [gfusd.net](http://gfusd.net)

**Hours of Operation:**

**Office Hours: 7:30am-4:00pm.**

**Gates:** The West Gate opens at 7:20am and closes at 7:50am. No supervision is available prior to 7:20.

**Closed Campus/Safety:** To ensure student safety, Valle Verde is a closed campus with the exception of the first three days of school. Closed Campus means access will be limited to visitors who have a pre-scheduled meeting with the teacher, pre-arranged volunteering in a classroom, or a sponsored school event during instructional hours. In an effort to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum, make sure your child is well prepared each day. Classroom "protected time" will not be interrupted to deliver homework, lunches, or messages. Please know that anyone picking up your child must be listed on the Emergency Contact Card and must enter through the office. As per our district's policy, we are not able to change any dismissal plans for your child by phone request. If there is a change in how your child will be getting home, please send a signed note with your child that day, fax us a signed request with ID, or send someone on your emergency card to the office to pick them up. This is for your child's safety since we are unable to verify who you are over the phone.

**Attendance:** A critical area of concern for all students is daily attendance. We reward all students with perfect monthly, trimester, and yearly attendance. Student with Perfect Attendance for the Year will go to Maya Cinema on 5/29. Please help your child to earn these rewards by doing the following:

- Make arrangements for your child to get to school no later than 7:45am. Class begins promptly at 7:50am. We do serve over 1,000 students so please plan accordingly for traffic.
- Our West Gate opens at 7:20am and is locked promptly at 7:50am.
- Our phone number is 837-6150. Be sure to call the school if your child is absent for any reason so that we may assist you in clearing the absence.
- Absences not cleared within 48 hours are unexcused.
- A total of 3 tardies or unexcused absences triggers a truancy letter to be sent home. Please avoid this by having your child here at school, on time, daily, or calling to excuse them.
- Students will be assigned Saturday School to make up unexcused absences, tardies, and/or early pickups.

**Arrival/Dismissal:**

**East Parking Lot:** Busses load/unload from the East parking lot. **This loop is for busses only.** No cars may enter the loop.

**West Parking Lot:** Students who walk to/from school or are dropped off/picked up from school will enter/exit through the West Gate.

- For the safety of our students and to allow for the continuous flow of traffic we will be using the crosswalks both before and after school and asking that no pedestrians cross the double lanes of traffic within our Car Loop. Instead, we ask that you cross safely using the crosswalk located directly in front of the office. A Crossing Guard will be there to ensure the safety of all pedestrians.
- Vehicles will have access to two lanes within our Car Loop and it is imperative that we use both lanes, pull all the way forward, and that vehicles are not left unattended. This is an unloading/loading zone only and my staff and I will be there daily to unload/load your children into your cars.
- For the convenience of those coming from the south side of Berkshire, there is a Crosswalk located at the corner of Berkshire and Moonstone for you to use which will put you at the sidewalk leading directly to our West Gate, the entry/exit point for all students.

**Walking Parents:** Please feel free to wait on the grass under the shade of the trees outside the West Gate.

**Late Pick Ups:** In the event that you are unable to pick up your child by the dismissal times listed below, please make other arrangements for them. A total of three late pick-ups triggers a truancy letter to be sent home. Please avoid this by picking your child up on time, daily. Late Pick-Ups will need to park, show ID through the office, and walk through the campus to sign their child out.

**Dismissal times are as follows:**

**TK-2nd: 2pm**

**3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>: 2:20**

**After School SUCCESS Program (ASSP):** Registration opens 8/6/18 with office hours: of 2:00-5:00 pm 8/6-8/15. Please contact Ms. Ruiz at 837-6155 with any questions.

**Back to School Night:** Thurs. 9/6 is our annual Back to School Night. This will be an opportunity for you to hear about the academic program that is planned for your child. Gates open at 5pm and you may go directly to your child's classroom. There are 2 sessions: 5:00-5:25pm and 5:30-5:55pm.

**Parent Conference Week:** Oct. 1st-5th, 2018 (Minimum Days all Week.)

Our staff is committed to providing a learning environment that will foster student growth and success. Please join with us in that task as we work toward preparing each child for the exciting future that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nicole R. Zandes  
Principal