



Sun Valley High School

Principal's Letter for the 2021-22 School Year

Website: pdsd.org

Twitter: [@SunValleyHS](https://twitter.com/SunValleyHS)

August 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to Sun Valley High School where students are challenged to achieve beyond their personal goals. Sun Valley offers students opportunities to enhance their growth intellectually, socially, and emotionally. Our goal is to show our Valley Pride through focused and engaged learning, social and emotional maturity and support, and meaningful involvement in clubs, service, athletics, and the arts.

Please become familiar with the school's website as it will provide important information for students and parents throughout the school year. The web address appears in the heading of this newsletter. In addition, our electronic system (phone & e-mail) will be used to communicate important messages during the school year. Finally, follow our school on Twitter @SunValleyHS where we post about our students' achievements and the day-to-day successes here in the Valley. We appreciate your involvement in the Sun Valley High School and your support of our programs.

Back to School Night:

Back to School Night is our parents/guardians opportunity to meet their child's teachers and better understand the expectations and goals for each class. Sun Valley's Back to School Night is on **Thursday, September 23, 2021 from 6:00-8:00 pm**. More specific details on the evening's events will be released during the first week in September.

Sun Valley Parent Teacher League (PTL)

The Parent Teacher League is a group of high school parents who meet regularly to discuss school issues and programs. All parents/guardians are encouraged to attend these meetings. The first meeting is **Wednesday, September 15 at 5:30 pm in the Sun Valley Main Office**. A PTL-specific e-mail will be coming soon! Please make sure we have your correct e-mail by contacting our main office!

SCHOOL NEWS & NOTES

Bus Schedules:

Please review your child's bus schedule by checking the district website. As soon as they are available, they will be posted.

AM Parent Drop Off at SVHS:

The front doors at Sun Valley HS is the only available **student entrance** for each school day. The front doors will be opened for students at 7:05 am each school day. Families who are dropping a child off in the morning must stay close to the inner circle/flag pole so the bus drop offs can drop off along the curb line. First period class starts at 7:30 am, so please plan accordingly to ensure your child is dropped off on time.



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Senior Parking

Parking on campus is a privilege and not guaranteed to any student. Due to building renovations, the number of student parking spaces and the opportunity to park in our lot may change and be limited. Seniors (Class of 2022) will have the first opportunity to secure a parking space by completing the [Parking Application 2021-2022](#). The form must be completed by **Thursday, September 2, 2021**. If there are more requests than available spaces, we will select senior names randomly. Only if spaces remain after the Senior Selection Phase, will we will make spaces available to interested Juniors (Class of 2023).

Parking permits require a fee of \$25.00 and a copy of the student's license, registration, and insurance information. Full information about Student Parking is available in the Student Handbook.

Start of School:

The first day of school is September 7, 2021 and the school day runs from 7:30 am – 2:15 pm. The bell schedule is below:

Period	Time Range
1	7:30 am - 8:18 am
2	8:21 am - 9:09 am
3	9:12 am - 10:00 am
4	10:03 am - 10:51 am
5	10:54 am - 11:42 am
6	11:45 am - 12:33 pm
7	12:36 pm - 1:24 pm
8	1:27 pm - 2:15 pm

We will operate on an 8 day cycle. Classes that are 1.0 credits will meet every day of the 8 day cycle. Classes that are 0.5 credits will either meet on odd or even days of the cycle for the duration of the school year.

Lunch Periods

Lunch periods will run from periods 4-7. Students can either have the same lunch period for the duration of the year or the lunch period may change every other cycle day in order to maximize the academic classes students' requested. Students may not request schedules changes for lunch periods. Free lunch is again being offered to all students. Food/drink items not included with the free lunch may be purchased by students by using their School Bucks account. If you need to set up your child's lunch account, please go to www.myschoolbucks.com or download the My School Bucks app. If you need to complete paperwork for free and/or reduced lunch, [please use this link for the necessary forms to complete](#).



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Skyward and Schoology:

The two software systems students and parent will use most are Skyward and Schoology. Please see below for important information about each.

Skyward: Skyward is a program where students and parents can review attendance, students' schedules, academic history, and review report cards. Students should log into Skyward to view their upcoming schedule for the 21-22 school year. Schedules will be viewable on or after August 17, 2021. [Use this link to log into Skyward.](#) Students' usernames are the first half of their e-mail address and the last two digits of their graduation year. For example, Bobby Smith's (12th grade) log in would be: bsmith22 (do not include the @pdsdstudents.org in the username). The password was selected by students. If students forget their password, they should click on forget my password on the Skyward log in screen and a temporary password will be e-mailed to their pdsdstudents account. For parents who haven't set up a Skyward account yet, follow the same steps as the students above by clicking forgot my password and put in the e-mail address you have on file with school district. A temporary password will be e-mailed to you to log in. If students or parents experience any issues logging in, please e-mail the PDS help desk at: helpdesk@pdsd.org.

Schoology: Schoology is a platform that students will utilize daily to view classroom assignments, submit assignments and view current marking period grades. Parents also have a Schoology account and can view their child's grades and assignments at any time. Parents can also receive notifications regarding their student's grades or upcoming assignments in the "Account Settings" on the Schoology page which can be accessed at pdsd.schoology.com or download the Schoology app. For parents needing additional information about Schoology, [please use this link to view our district website that provides additional information.](#)

Student Schedules for 2021-22:

Students should review their schedule in Skyward to make sure they have the necessary classes for the upcoming year. [Also, please review page 5 of the Course Guide for the graduation requirements.](#) If a student needs to request a schedule change, he/she will need to [complete the Schedule Change Request form for 2021-22.](#) Please know that not all schedule change requests will be possible either due to class sizes or availability and how that affects the student's schedule. There are guidelines outlined on the Google form about what type of schedule changes a student is permitted to request. Requests will be handled as they are received, but please remember counselors return to work on September 1, 2021. Please be patient and only send one request!

Summer Reading:

Just a reminder that students have summer reading to complete prior to the start of the school year. For more information about summer reading, [please use this link to access the requirements by grade level and English course.](#)



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Attendance:

Prior to the start of the school year, please review the school district's attendance policy to ensure your child doesn't accrue unexcused absences or lateness/tardies. Students need to arrive on time to school daily as school begins promptly at 7:30 am. All absences require a parent or doctor's note in writing to be submitted to the main office within 3 days of the absence. Students are permitted ten parent excused absences in a school year and any future absences after ten will require a doctor's note to be excused. [Please review the school district webpage for more information on how to submit electronic absence notes and information about late arrivals or requests for an early dismissal.](#) Student attendance is taken each period at Sun Valley High School. Students who miss three - four (3-4) periods in one day will receive a half-day (0.5 day) absence and students who miss five or more (5-8) periods in one day, receive a full day absence. Sun Valley's attendance policy is detailed [here](#).

Sun Valley Handbook:

Students and parents should review the Sun Valley Handbook which covers additional important information. [Please click here to access the Sun Valley Handbook.](#)

New Students & Incoming 9th Grade Orientation:

Incoming 9th Graders are encouraged to join us for a brief Orientation program on **Monday, August 30, 2021**, in-person at Sun Valley HS. Masks are recommended for unvaccinated individuals. Upon arrival, students will enter at the Planetarium doors (to the right of the school's front doors). Parents/guardians are being asked to drop students off and to either: (1) wait in the main parking lot (side of the building) or (2) to drop off and return approximately 45 minutes later. At orientation, students will meet some high school staff members, receive a guided tour so they can acclimate to their class schedule, and receive their new Chromebook & charger*. More details will be sent via phone & email in advance of the Orientation session.

***Chrome Book Information:**

Incoming 9th graders (who went to Northley for 8th grade) are required to turn in their middle school Chromebook in order to receive a new Chromebook & charger from Sun Valley. The Sun Valley Chromebook will remain with the student for the entirety of their high school career. Students are expected to bring their middle school Chromebook & charger with them to the Orientation on 08/30/2021 to exchange for their new device. We cannot provide a new device without the old one to exchange. Students who are unable to attend Orientation will receive a new Chromebook & charger during the opening days of school.

New students to the high school, will receive a new Chromebook & charger at Orientation or during the opening days of school.



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I look forward to the upcoming school year and working with you and your children. If you have questions about topics listed above, please contact the high school office at 610-497-6300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick A. Sasse".

Patrick A. Sasse
High School Principal

Dates to Remember

September 7 – First Day of School! 1st period begins at 7:30 am!

September 9 – Picture Day, 7:30 am -12:00 pm (SV Gymnasium)

September 10 & 13 –Senior Portrait Re-takes, 9:00 am (SV Auditorium)

September 15 –PTL Meeting, 5:30 pm in the SV Office

September 23 – Back to School Night, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

September 24 – Half-Day for Students, 10:15 am dismissal; Teacher In-Service Day