



SunRidge School

A public school guided by the core principles of Waldorf Education in Sebastopol, CA

SunRidge School Bulletin

August 12th, 2026



Mural gifted by the 8th grade Class of 2026

SunRidge School Verse

This is our School,
Let peace dwell here.
Let the rooms be full of contentment.
Let love abide here.
Love of one another, love of humankind, love of life itself.
Let us remember that as many hands build a house,
So many hearts make a school.

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2026-27 Faculty, Specialty Instructors, & Aides

Dragonfly TK - Lauren Norgeot
Dragonfly Assistant - Molly Heacock
Morning Star K - Sasha Prosser
Morning Star Assistant - Holly Ghirann
1st Grade - Snowma Smith
1st Grade Aide - Fidelina Schlegel
2nd Grade - Heather Colby-Sereano
2nd Grade Aide - Tanessa Dawe
3rd Grade - Emily Husar
4th Grade - Dolly Oberti-Rinn
5th Grade - Austin Menard
6th Grade - Bill Kobabe, Sofia Brusati
7th Grade - Cristina Gosling
8th Grade - Mark Quirt
Middle School Math - Christa Brown
Games - Dale Thurber
Gardening - Sorrel Allen
Handwork - Laurie McKenzie
Music - Alex Volonts
Spanish - Marcela Ronan
Woodwork - David Ferrera
Education Specialist - Rose Head-Tischler
Student Support Aide - Katherine Godfrey
Academic Intervention Teacher - Nicole Greaney
School Counselor - Taylor Matthews

A Letter From Ms. Haedo



Dear SunRidge Community,

As we stand on the threshold of a new school year, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for the year ahead. This is an especially meaningful year for SunRidge, as we begin our 25th year as a school community.

Twenty-five years ago, SunRidge began with a small group of parents who shared a vision: they wanted a Waldorf-based education to be available to children and families regardless of their income. In early 2002, those parents approached the Twin Hills Union School District with the idea of creating a Waldorf methods public charter school. With the support of the Superintendent, School Board, district teachers, families, and a growing group of volunteers, the charter was written and unanimously approved by the Board on May 1, 2002. On June 27, SunRidge officially became California's 481st charter school.

What happened next feels remarkably connected to the SunRidge we know today. Families and volunteers raised funds, hired teachers and staff, prepared classrooms, developed enrollment systems, and quite literally built a school community together. When SunRidge opened its doors on September 1, 2002, nearly 180 students arrived to two kindergarten classes and grades one through seven.

Twenty-five school years later, we are still here.

That is something worth celebrating—and something we should not take for granted. Charter schools are asked to continually demonstrate their educational, organizational, and financial viability, and many do not endure. In California alone, research examining school closures from 2012–2021 found that 56% of the 687 public schools that closed during that period were charter schools, even though charter schools represented a much smaller share of California's public schools. More recent state analysis found substantial closure rates among charter schools as well.

So reaching our 25th year is more than an anniversary. It is a testament to generations of families, teachers, staff members, administrators, board members, volunteers, donors, and community partners who believed that this school was worth building, sustaining, and protecting. It is a joy to share that four of our founding staff members and two founding parents are still here.

Perhaps there is no better expression of that legacy than what I witnessed this past Saturday.

Gratitude Day once again embodied the spirit upon which SunRidge was founded. Students, parents, faculty, and staff came together in the joyful work of readying our campus for the first day of school. By the end of the day, the fruits of that work were everywhere. Our classrooms and grounds looked beautiful, cared for, and ready to welcome our students back into the rhythm of school life. My heartfelt thanks to every hand and heart that contributed to this wonderful day.

I also want to recognize the tremendous work of our teachers and staff in preparation for the year ahead. Over the summer and throughout these past several days, our faculty have spent significant time deepening their work in Waldorf education and pedagogy while continuing to strengthen our alignment with California State Standards. This balance is at the heart of who we are as a Waldorf public school: preserving the richness of an experiential, developmentally responsive education while ensuring that our students are challenged, supported, and prepared academically.

Throughout this year, we will have opportunities to look back at where SunRidge began, reconnect with people who have been part of its story, and imagine together where we want it to go next. Our 25th Anniversary Gala will be a centerpiece of that celebration, bringing together current families, alumni, former faculty and staff, friends, and supporters to honor the people and history that have made SunRidge what it is today. More information about the Gala and our 25th anniversary celebrations will be coming soon.

Tomorrow, we will greet the shining faces of our students and families and begin our 25th year together.

With the advent of each school year, I like to invite us to set some shared intentions for the community.

1. Assume best intentions.
2. Practice direct and respectful communication.
3. Keep students at the center of our practice—not in the middle of our conflicts.

These are simple intentions, but I believe they can have a profound impact on the way we work together. Schools are deeply human places. There will be questions, differences, challenges, celebrations, and moments when we need to find our way together. When we begin from a place of trust, speak directly and respectfully with one another, and continually return to what is best for our students, we strengthen the community surrounding every child.

Twenty-five years ago, a small group of people imagined that this school could exist. Tomorrow morning, hundreds of children will walk through its doors.

What a beautiful legacy to inherit—and what a responsibility and privilege it is to carry it forward.

Here's to a wonderful first day and an extraordinary 25th year at SunRidge!

Sincerely and warmly,

Karina Haedo
Director
SunRidge School

Middle School Highlights

Westminster Woods: On Friday, August 28, our entire Middle School will spend the day at Westminster Woods. Students in grades 6–8 will participate in mixed-grade groups for outdoor activities, cooperative challenges, and community building.

Middle School Dances: Students will enjoy dances with our sister Waldorf schools throughout the year. SunRidge will host two dances, with additional invitations to come!

Cyber Civics: Students will continue Cyber Civics, exploring digital citizenship, social media, privacy, media literacy, and responsible technology use.

Class Trips: Our Middle School class trips continue this year: 6th Grade to Lassen National Forest, 7th Grade to Old Sacramento, and 8th Grade to Yosemite National Park.

Friday Flex & Electives: Friday Flex gives students opportunities to choose from rotating electives, activities, and guest speakers—from circus arts and macramé to art, movement, practical skills, and more.

PlayMarimba: Students in grades 6–8 can participate in PlayMarimba after school on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:00–4:00 PM through ELOP.

Athletics & Movement: Middle School students will have opportunities to participate in volleyball, cross-country, basketball, flag football, and our traditional Waldorf movement events. A completed Athletic Program Packet is required for participation.

Quick Reference Website Links

Independent Study - <https://www.sunridgeschool.org/resources/independent-study>

Meal Program - <https://www.sunridgeschool.org/resources/meal-program>

Parent Handbooks - <https://www.sunridgeschool.org/resources/parent-handbooks>

YMCA Aftercare information - <https://www.sunridgeschool.org/after-care-program>

Athletic Information & Forms - <https://www.sunridgeschool.org/athletics>

Pledge Information - <https://www.sunridgeschool.org/sunridge-school-educational-foundation>

Mental Health Resources - <https://www.sunridgeschool.org/resources/mental-health-resources>

Parent Council Update - School Skate and Donate

Welcome back SunRidge families! The Parent Council will be hosting the New Family Tea this Friday and to celebrate the new school year Class 6 will be hosting a back to school Skate and Donate at CalSkate Friday August 21st from 5:30-7:30. The rink will be closed to the public so only those with our flyer can enter. We will be inviting our sister schools to kick off the new school year together. Hope to see you there!



New Family Tea

This Friday, August 14th
Under the covered picnic table area
after drop off



SunRidge

Skate & Donate



PLUS: Your price for admission & skate rental is discounted from our regular public pricing for the evening.

Friday August 21st 2026

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

This is a fundraising event!!!

(A percentage of your admission goes back to your school)
You must show a hard or digital copy of this flyer at the door
to be counted towards this fundraiser!

Discounted Admission \$10.00 / Discounted Skate Rental \$4.00
(no spectator fee for supervising adults)

****We have a no outside food or beverage policy. Our snack bar is open.**
This is a fundraising event~please show your support!!!
(No passes or coupons)

Cal Skate of Rohnert Park
6100 Commerce Blvd.
Info:585-0494/www.calskate.com



Ways to Get Involved

Welcome to SunRidge Charter School as we celebrate our 25th year!

Parents, grandparents, and other special adults help make SunRidge the vibrant community it is today. Throughout the year, there will be many ways to contribute your time and financial support.

Help us reach 100% Pledge participation. As a school of choice, every contribution helps sustain the Waldorf programs that nurture head, heart, and hands, through music, Spanish, gardening, handwork, woodwork, field trips and more. The suggested donation is \$250 per month per student, but **any amount is appreciated** and helps support our students' experience. Please contribute what you can - every donation makes a difference and strengthens our school community.

Throughout the year, families are asked to support their student(s)' field trips and the school keeps costs as low as possible while still providing hands-on learning opportunities.

There are also many ways to get involved. Volunteer opportunities throughout the year may include helping in the classroom, improving school grounds, or chaperoning field trips. Each class is supported by a team of parent volunteers, and you'll receive sign-ups for both volunteer and fundraising opportunities.

Leadership roles are also available through SunRidge committees—a great way to build community, learn new skills, and contribute to the school's direction. We encourage you to attend a committee meeting (in person or virtually) to see how our community helps shape the school.

We're so glad you've chosen SunRidge for your child. Your participation and support help enrich the experience for every student. See below for more details on getting involved.

More Ways to Support SunRidge

Pledge

Please contribute what your household feels comfortable giving as we work toward **100% participation**. Suggested donation: \$250/month per student.

Leadership Opportunities

Charter Council

Oversees and recommends school activities, programs, and budget.

Contact: chartercouncilchairperson@twinhillsusd.org

SunRidge Educational Foundation

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports the financial needs of SunRidge School.

Contact: sef@twinhillsusd.org

Parent Council & Equity Council

Advises and supports school activities and community engagement.

Contact: srpc@twinhillsusd.org

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many opportunities to volunteer and learn new skills within committees, at events, chaperoning field trips, in the classroom and with specialty teachers. Other opportunities include roles for your class such as class parent or appreciation coordinate.

Schoolwide Fundraisers

Falling Leaves Festival

A fun autumn celebration open to the community. Each class hosts a part of the festival for family fun.

Move-a-Thon

A springtime all-school event that gets kids moving while supporting our largest annual fundraiser.

Auction

An online community auction featuring local experiences, services, and special items to benefit the school.

School Gala

Coming in March 2027 to celebrate SunRidge 25th year, an in-person, adults-only night to celebrate with an in-person and online auction.

Classifieds

SunRidge School provides space for advertisements in its newsletter as a service to the community. The appearance of any advertisement in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or certification by SunRidge School. The school neither verifies the accuracy of the content nor supports the products, services, or organizations featured in these ads. Families and individuals are encouraged to exercise their own discretion and judgment when engaging with the businesses or services advertised.

[Click Here](#) for Classifieds

Want To Contribute To The SunRidge Bulletin?

If you would like to add or contribute something to our school bulletin, please submit your request to all of the following staff:

Ms. Theresa at tthomasson@twinhillsusd.org

Ms. Haedo at khaedo@twinhillusd.org

We have bi-monthly bulletins. Bulletins will be posted twice per month. Please submit your contribution ONE full week prior to the bulletin posting. Contributions received after that time will be considered for the following bulletin. Thank you so much.

