

Gold Ridge Back to School Night

High Levels of Learning for ALL



DATE

August 13, 2026



LOCATION

GRE Multipurpose Room



TIME

5:35-5:55 pm



The Gold Ridge Standard

OUR VISION

At Gold Ridge, we believe **every student deserves a high level of learning every day.**

Our practice—**Inclusive. Innovating. Inspiring.**—guides our commitment to a welcoming school where everyone belongs.

OUR APPROACH

We prepare students not only for standards mastery, but for **their future.**

We provide high expectations, strong instruction, meaningful relationships, and the support needed to grow academically, socially, and personally.

OUR BELIEF

Students thrive when they feel **safe, connected, and encouraged to be their best selves.**

We work together to create a school where every child can **learn, lead, grow, and SOAR.**

Every student. Every day. Seen. Supported. Challenged. Inspired.

Principal Wendy Sol

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Year 31** as an educator
(don't do the math)
- **Year 25** in Folsom
Cordova Unified
- **21 years** as an
elementary teacher
- **Year 10** as an
administrator
- **Year 4** at Gold Ridge!

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

- National Board Certified
Teacher
- St. Mary's College, **BA**
- SJSU, **MA** & Teaching
Credential
- SCOE Administrative
Credential
- SCOE Principals'
Academy





Office Staff

Office Hours M-F, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm



Wendy Sol

Principal

***Melanie Cortez**

Administrative Assistant

Kris Easter

Attendance Clerk

Stefanie Ellis

Parent Coordinator

Jenni Wise

Health Clerk

Crystle Aitpakov

Nurse (Tu./Fri.)



Office Staff



Welcome, New GRE Team Members!



Linju Joseph

Learning
Center/Resource



Malaika Gruver

Preschool SDC
Teacher



Melanie Cortez

Administrative
Assistant/ Office
Manager



Stefanie Ellis

Library Media Clerk



Communication



GRE Website

Go here first for school updates and resources.



ParentSquare

Weekly text and email reminders from the office. Download the app.



Teacher Comm

Reach teachers directly via ParentSquare and FCUSD email.



The Eagle Eye

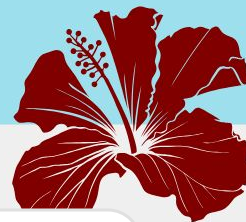
Our weekly newsletter is updated and found on our website.



Wed. Folders

Check your student's folder every Wednesday for school materials.

GRE Student Handbook



Student Handbook

Please read through the Student Handbook located on the Gold Ridge homepage under the "Students" tab.

[Read Handbook](#)



Digital Devices Policy

Review district regulations regarding cell phones, smart watches, and digital devices for elementary students.

[View Board Policy 5131.8](#)



Safe Drop off & Pick Up



Traffic Rules

- No cars in bus lane or small parking lot.
- Follow signs: no left turn out of the lot.
- Placard required for handicap spaces.
- Do not drop off from street or block traffic.
- Do not leave vehicle unattended in lane.



Procedures

- Students exit vehicles from the right side.
- **Drive SLOWLY** at all times.
- **TK-K:** Hand to hand required.
- **Grades 1-2:** Eye contact from amphitheater.



Community

- Be courteous and patient. **Adults model kindness!**
- Do not block driveways; respect our neighbors.
- Make a plan in advance.
- Communicate with the office for last minute changes.



Campus Safety

For the safety and comfort of all families, please remember that dogs are not allowed on school grounds during drop off and pick up.

Campus Rules & Schedule



Closed Campus

Gold Ridge is a closed campus during school hours **7:30am - 4:00pm** to ensure safety of our students.

Students should be dropped off and picked up at the front of the school **ONLY**.

Please stay in designated areas and do not enter the multi.



Early Release Thursdays

Every Thursday students will be released at 1:15pm.

Please be on time and follow the regular dismissal procedures.



Pro Tip: Set a repeated reminder!

Breakfast and Lunch: Free to all students



Free Meals

School breakfast and lunches are free to **all students**.

Service Hours

7:40 - 8:00 AM



Menu Access

Menus are easily accessible through multiple channels:

- Online [here](#)
- [Gold Ridge Website](#)
- Eagle Eye Newsletter

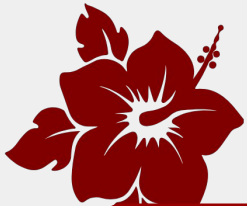


Parent Tips

Before your child eats school lunch, it is highly recommended to:

Preview the Menu!

Be mindful of food restrictions, potential allergies, or finicky eaters.



Snacks & Water Bottles



Water Bottles

Reusable bottles are preferred but not required. Fountains & filling stations are available on campus.

 **Fill with water only please!**



Healthy Snacks

Please send daily **"single serving"** snacks. Avoid sugary items to support student focus.

The office has emergency snacks, but cannot provide them regularly.



Do Not Share

We strictly ask students **not to share food** at school.

This helps prevent the spread of germs and protects classmates with severe or unknown allergies.



FCUSD Adopted Curriculum



Literacy & Writing

Reading & Phonics

UFLI (K-2), SIPPS (3-5)

Language Arts

Benchmark

Writing

Step Up To Writing



STEM

Mathematics

Innovamat **(New Adoption)**

Science

Amplify & Mystery Science



Social & Character

Social Studies

TCi Curriculum

Character Education

Second Step Program



Independent Study



Eligibility & Limit

3+ School Days

Request if missing 3 or more consecutive days for vacation.

15-Day Annual Limit

There is a maximum limit of 15 independent study days per year.



Strict Request Timeline

2 Weeks Notice

Requests must be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance.

No Exceptions

Late requests mean work is not provided and absences are unexcused.



Return & Credit

First Day Return

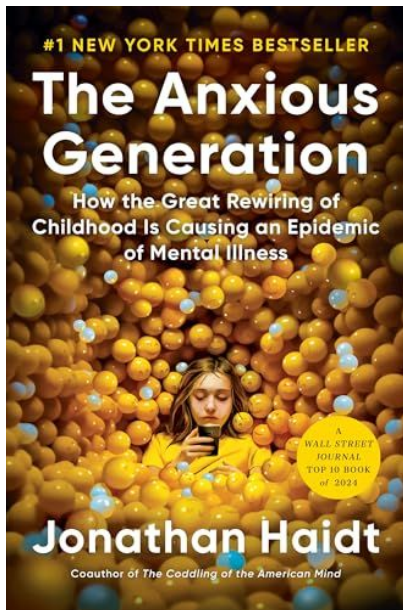
Completed work must be turned in on the very first day back.

Attendance Credit

Work must be finished to standard to receive attendance credit.



Screen Time, Social Media, Messaging



Limiting Access to:

- **Social Media**
- **Online Gaming**
- **Text/Group messaging**
- **YouTube & Tik Tok**

Sunflower Scholars Garden Program



Volunteer Opportunities

Teacher Requests

Teachers will request a minimum of **two volunteers** to participate in the monthly hands-on science & garden lessons.

No Experience Necessary!

Additional volunteers would be great to help support garden workdays and fundraising events.

SUNFLOWER Scholars
Growing Minds • Growing Community • Growing a Brighter Future

Gold Ridge Elementary is excited to launch our **Sunflower Scholars** Garden Program—a hands-on learning experience where students explore nature, science, nutrition, responsibility, and teamwork while helping our school garden thrive!

Our garden helps students grow curiosity, confidence, and a lifelong love of learning!

OUR GARDEN SPACES

LADYBUG LANE
A pollinator and flower garden where students learn about insects, flowers, and the important role they play in our ecosystem.

CATERPILLAR CORNER
A growing space for vegetables, herbs, and plants where students explore life cycles, healthy eating, and the joy of growing their own food.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- Planting & garden workdays
- Watering & caring for plants
- Supporting students during garden activities
- Helping with pollinator & nature activities
- Harvest & garden events
- Garden clean-up & maintenance
- Supporting hands-on science & garden lessons

No gardening experience is necessary! We will provide guidance and opportunities to learn alongside our students. Thank you for helping our garden grow!

YES! I'D LOVE TO HELP OUR GARDEN GROW!

PLEASE SIGN UP BELOW — THANK YOU!

VOLUNTEER NAME	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	I CAN HELP WITH (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	
1			☐ Workdays	☐ Events
2			☐ Activities	☐ Other
3			☐ Workdays	☐ Events
4			☐ Activities	☐ Other
5			☐ Workdays	☐ Events
			☐ Activities	☐ Other
			☐ Workdays	☐ Events
			☐ Activities	☐ Other

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

TOGETHER, WE CAN GROW SOMETHING AMAZING!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR SUNFLOWER SCHOLARS BLOOM!



Cultivating Community

How Parents, PTO, and Volunteers Can Join and Fund the Program

Volunteer Roles



Sign up as a Garden Docent at Back to School Night, or help us recruit a Garden Program Coordinator.

Upcoming Workday



Join us for Folsom Community Service Day on September 19th to repaint garden boxes, install trellises, weed and add soil and compost.

Sponsorship



Support the program through our Amazon, Lowes, Home Depot and Green Acres wish lists, or through our Giving Tree donations of \$50 or \$100.

We need your support to help the Sunflower Scholars program thrive this year.

Sign up as a volunteer, join our upcoming workday, or view our wish lists to get involved!



Volunteering at Gold Ridge

Current Volunteers

- Please do [Mandatory Reporter Training](#) before September 11. Certificate is Free! Do not pay!
- Must update TB if expiring between July 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027.
- [FCUSD Volunteer Procedures](#) for TB information, mandatory reporter training, volunteer agreement, and volunteer handbook.
- Contact Stefanie Ellis at 916-294-9140 x 240116 or sellis@fcusd.org for TB expiration dates or other inquiries.

New Volunteers

- Pick up LiveScan Form tonight, or in front office, or attend Mobile Fingerprinting at Back to School Night on August 21 (RSVP).
- Please do [Mandatory Reporter Training](#) Certificate is Free! Do not pay!
- Attend free FCUSD TB Clinic or visit personal provider.
- [FCUSD Volunteer Procedures](#) for TB information, mandatory reporter training, volunteer agreement, and volunteer handbook.
- Contact Stefanie Ellis at 916-294-9140 x 240116 or sellis@fcusd.org for inquiries.



PTO Board

2026-2027



Executive Board

President: Maurice Robinson

Vice President: Julie Mozingo

Secretary: S. Corey & J. Baker

Treasurer: Kaitlin Leandro

Parliamentarian: Rachel Borton



Coordinators

Events: Shunna Robinson

Operations: Kayla Amick

Communications:

Debbie Salindo

Fundraising: Alicia Tutt

Yearbook: Vacant

Volunteer: Vacant



Representatives

Teacher Rep: Lorraine Fowler

Teacher Rep: Emily Duarte

Staff Appreciation: Alicia Tutt



Meet Your PTO Executive Board

A team of parents, volunteers, and school partners serving Gold Ridge.

President
Maurice Robinson

Vice President
Julie Mozingo

Secretary
Shannon Corey

Co-Secretary
Janelle Baker

Operations Coordinator
Kayla Amick

Treasurer
Kaitlin Leandro

Auditor
Tina Cox

Parliamentarian
Rachel Borton

Events Coordinator
Shunna Robinson

Communications Coordinator
Debbie Salindo

Volunteer Coordinator
Julia Hernandez

Teacher Appreciation Coordinator
Alicia Tutt

Teacher Representatives
Emily Duarte • Lorraine Fowler



Parents + Teachers + Community

Our 2026–2027 PTO Mission

Creating a Culture of Community

CREATING

A CULTURE OF

COMMUNITY

Our mission is to create a culture of community where every family feels welcomed, connected, valued, and empowered to be part of our Gold Ridge Elementary community.

OUR GOAL

300 PTO MEMBERS

A bigger membership means a stronger network of families supporting our students, teachers, staff, and school.

ONE SCHOOL

ONE COMMUNITY

TOGETHER

PTO Membership vs. Board Membership

You do not have to volunteer to belong.

PTO MEMBER

- Join for only \$5
- Support our students & staff
- Stay connected to PTO activities
- Attend events as you choose
- Attend meetings if you choose — not required
- Volunteering is not required
- No time commitment
- Make your voice heard — voting power

BOARD MEMBER

- Attend monthly meetings
- Help plan events and programs
- Participate in decision-making
- Take on a defined leadership role
- Volunteer time throughout the year
- Work as a team to support our school

JOIN TODAY • HELP US REACH 300 MEMBERS

Membership Drive Starts Today!

Every family that joins helps their class — and our whole school — get closer to a prize.



TOP CLASS

The class with the highest percentage of families signed up as PTO members wins the GRAND PRIZE.

50%

50%+ PARTICIPATION

Classes reaching more than 50% family participation earn a prize.

25%

25% PARTICIPATION

Classes reaching 25% family participation earn a prize.

300 MEMBERS = EVERY STUDENT WINS!

Multiple parents/guardians can become members • \$5 each • No volunteer commitment required

Together, we're Creating a Culture of Community.

How We Build Community

Our calendar balances fundraising with opportunities to simply connect.

DINING FOR DOLLARS

An easy monthly way to support our school by dining at a participating restaurant. A portion of eligible purchases is donated back to the PTO.

FUNDRAISERS

Events that raise funds to support our students, programs, and school needs.

FRIENDRAISERS

Events that bring families together, build relationships, and create a culture of community.

Some events raise dollars. Others raise connection. Both strengthen Gold Ridge.

Let's Meet Again!

PTO General Meetings • Every Other Month

3rd WEDNESDAY
6:00–7:30 PM

FIRST GENERAL MEETING
Date Coming Soon!

SAVE THE DATE

**Meetings are held every other month
on the 3rd Wednesday.**

If a meeting falls during an out-of-school recess, a new date will be selected and published with advance notice.

Come connect, stay informed, and be part of our Gold Ridge community.

2026–2027 Calendar Highlights

A mix of fundraisers, fundraisers, and community-building events.

08/21 **Party on the Quad**

Fundraiser



12/12 **Winter Wonderland**

Fundraiser



09/24 **Fall Bingo • supports Drama Club**

Fundraiser



02/05 **Family Formal**

Fundraiser



10/09 **Eagle Run • Jog-a-thon**

Fundraiser



03/18 **Disco Bingo**

Fundraiser



10/23 **Fall Festival**

Fundraiser



TBD **Auction**

Fundraiser



11/13 **Ruby Bridges Walk to School**

Fundraiser



Dates and details are subject to change. Watch PTO communications for updates.

Gold Ridge Elementary Facebook

Facebook interface showing the Gold Ridge Elementary School page. The page is a private group with 608 members.

Left Sidebar:

- Search Facebook
- Gold Ridge Elementary School (Private group · 608 members)
- Chats
- Manage
- Community home
- Overview
- Admin tools
- Admin Assist (5 actions, 9 criteria)
- Member requests (0 new today)
- Badge requests (0 new today)
- Membership questions
- + Create a chat

Center Content:

- Cover photo: GOLD RIDGE ELEMENTARY EST. 1998. DON'T JUST FLY, SOAR! (with eagle logo)
- Gold Ridge Elementary School (Private group · 608 members)
- Member avatars
- + Invite
- Share

Bottom Navigation:

- Discussion
- Featured
- Members
- Events
- Media
- Files

General PTO Meeting - August 20th



6 - 7:30 pm
GRE Library
& on Zoom



THANK YOU!

Together, we will support our students, celebrate and encourage our staff, strengthen our families, and make this an unforgettable year.

GOLD RIDGE PTO

Creating a Culture of Community

ONE SCHOOL • ONE COMMUNITY • TOGETHER

Party on the Quad

August 21st 5:00 - 7:00 PM

 For GRE families

 Food trucks

 Games

 Music



Eagle Run

October 9th

💰 Fundraising starting in September

🌐 All online

🏆 Shirts & prizes





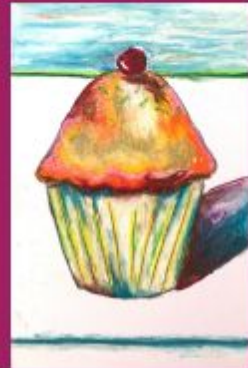
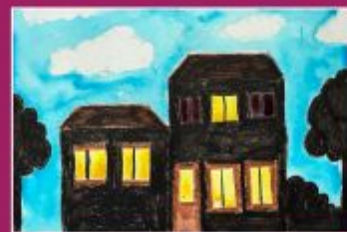
Art Docents are Rock Stars!

You don't need to be an artist
to be a fabulous docent.

Each lesson has a easy to
follow art history or
technique presentation, then
a step-by-step art project.

Art docents get a rare
opportunity to watch children
discover they're
one of a kind.

2025-26 ART PROJECTS



SIGN UP TONIGHT!

For more program details, visit RachelDillon.com

Reach out anytime!

GoldRidgePTO@gmail.com





Thank you!

