

SunRidge School Bulletin

September 9th, 2026



September Rain in the SunRidge Garden

The earth is so rich in September. Apples and quinces fall from heavy branches.
Cabbage, squash, broccoli, peppers, tomatoes ripen in every garden.
White and blue grapes hang heavy clusters on the vines.
~Gladys Taber, "Fall," Stillmeadow Sampler, 1959

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5th Grade Botany Drawings

Calendar

To view the calendar on the school website, [click here](#):

To view the 26-27 calendar click this pdf: [2026-27 SunRidge School Year Calendar](#)

Please [click here](#) for directions on exporting the SunRidge School Calendar.

Friday, September 11th - Sunday, September 13th
Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 14th - Friday, September 18th
8th Grade Field Trip to Yosemite

Tuesday, September 15th, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Ashley Radzat Presentation
Strong Enough to Struggle: Raising Resilient Children

Tuesday, September 15th - Friday, September 18th
7th Grade Field Trip to Sacramento

Friday, September 18th
6th Grade Dine & Donate, Honeymoon Frozen Yogurt

Sunday, September 20th - Monday, September 21st
Yom Kippur

Tuesday, September 22nd
Fall Equinox

Wednesday, September 23rd, 24th
2nd Grade Play

Wednesday, September 24th
Festival of Courage

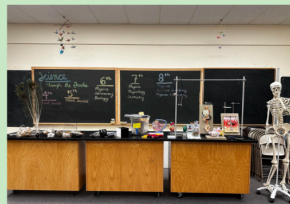
Monday, September 28th - 30th
6th Grade Field Trip to Lassen

Monday, September 28th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
SEF Mtg.

Monday, October 5th - Tuesday, October 6th (Schedule TBD)
Portrait Day

Tuesday, October 6th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Parent Council Mtg.

Wednesday, October 7th
Walk and Roll to School



Middle School Science Lab

September

There is something about September that asks us to gather ourselves again.

Summer stretches us outward—into longer evenings, travel, family, gardens, beaches, and days that are a little less governed by the clock. Then school begins, and slowly we return to rhythm. Alarm clocks ring. Lunches are packed. Backpacks appear by the door. Children return to their classrooms, their teachers, their friends, and to the familiar rhythm of learning and growing together. September also marks a turning point in the natural world. The light begins to change, mornings become cooler, and we start to notice the first signs of the harvest season. For generations, people across cultures have recognized this time of year as one of gathering what has grown and preparing for the colder and darker months ahead.

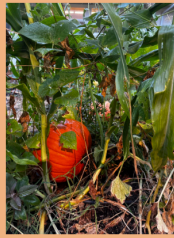
In many private Waldorf schools, this seasonal transition is marked by Michaelmas, traditionally celebrated near the autumn equinox on September 29. Michaelmas has long been connected with the end of the harvest season and, over time, became associated with courage and preparation for the darker months of the year. In Waldorf schools, the season is often explored through stories, songs, harvest activities, and challenges that invite children to experience courage, perseverance, and inner strength.

At SunRidge, we recognize this seasonal moment through our own Festival of Courage. Rather than centering a particular religious tradition, we celebrate the universal qualities that this time of year invites us to consider: courage, resilience, cooperation, gratitude, and the willingness to meet a challenge. There is something especially meaningful about asking children to practice courage. Courage is not always a grand act. Sometimes it is walking into a classroom when you are uncertain. Sometimes it is trying something difficult, speaking up, making a new friend, apologizing, standing beside someone who needs support, or simply trying again after something has not gone as planned.

Our Festival of Courage also connects us to the harvest—to the understanding that what we tend and nurture eventually bears fruit. In the natural world, this is the season for gathering and preparing for winter. In a school, we are just beginning to plant and tend the seeds of the year ahead. As our school year settles into its rhythm, I am grateful for the community we are creating together—a place where children are known, where they are challenged, where they can make mistakes and begin again, and where they are encouraged to discover their own capacity for courage.

May we enter this new season with gratitude for what has been gathered, care for what we are planting, and courage for whatever lies ahead.

Warmly,
Karina Haedo
SunRidge Director



Back To School Night

Our Back to School Night this year was a new experience for all of us! The timing of the evening was a bit challenging for me personally, as I found myself doing two jobs simultaneously—welcoming and orienting our community while also presenting in the Fourth Grade classroom.

That said, I have received very positive feedback from families, with one parent describing the evening as feeling like a “feast of information.” The rotating format offered families an opportunity to experience a broader picture of the SunRidge curriculum and to see how intentionally the learning journey develops from grade to grade.

Some classrooms did feel a little more empty at times, particularly because in year’s past families of younger students naturally tend to congregate and fill their own child’s classroom. Even so, our overall attendance was above what we typically see, increasing by more than 20% despite the rainy weather!

We are excited to continue developing and expanding this experience for our families. As with anything new, we learn by trying, listening, and refining. We warmly welcome any and all feedback you may have as we begin thinking about next year’s Back to School Night.



Middle School Artwork

Attendance Matters: Ever Day Makes a Difference

Last year, SunRidge's attendance goal was 94%. We ended the year at 94.06%—we made it!

That accomplishment belongs to our entire community. Every morning that families got children out the door and to school, every effort to schedule appointments and vacations around the school calendar, and every student who showed up ready to participate helped us reach that goal. Attendance matters for more than one reason.

First and foremost, children need to be at school to fully experience their education. At SunRidge, so much of our curriculum happens through direct experience: stories, experiments, movement, music, art, handwork, games, class discussions, field experiences, and relationships with teachers and classmates. When a student misses school, much of that learning simply cannot be recreated through make-up work.

Attendance also directly supports our ability to provide the rich programming our families value. California public schools receive funding based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA). When students are absent, even for an excused absence, the school generally does not receive attendance funding for that day. Reaching our attendance goal helps SunRidge sustain the high level of programming and educational opportunities we are able to offer our students.

When Absences Begin to Add Up

If a student who misses 10% or more of the school year is considered chronically absent. That is approximately two days per month—and chronic absenteeism includes both excused and unexcused absences.

Truancy is different. Under California attendance law, unexcused absences and excessive tardiness can trigger the truancy process. Calling the school verifies why your child is absent, but it does not necessarily make the absence an excused absence.

As attendance concerns accumulate, SunRidge is required to notify families. If the pattern continues, families may be asked to meet with the Director for a School Attendance Review Team (SART) meeting so that we can understand what is contributing to the absences and create a plan for improved attendance. If attendance concerns continue despite these interventions, the student may ultimately be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) at a county level for additional intervention.

What We Ask of Families

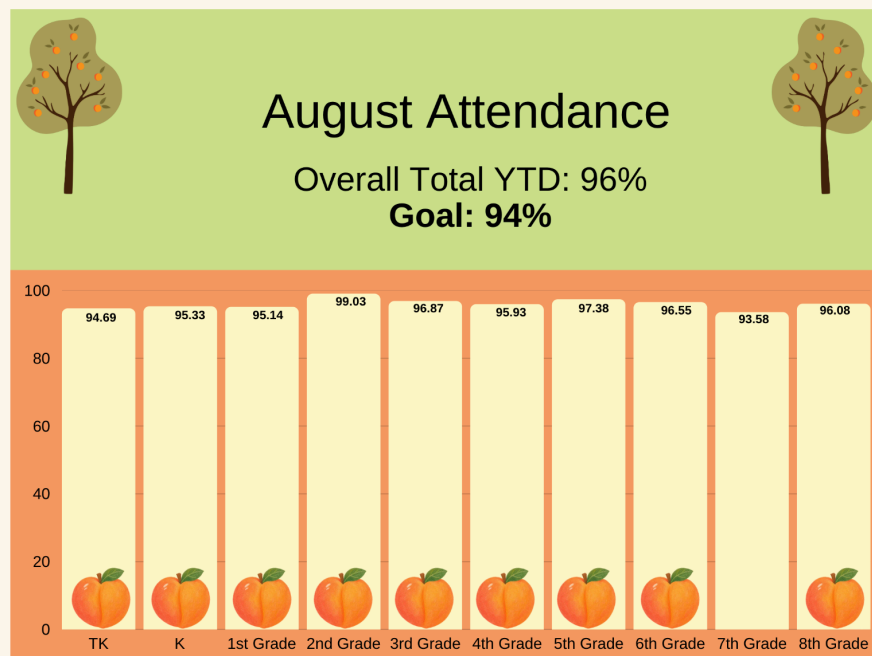
When your child is healthy, please make every effort to have them at school and on time each day. Schedule vacations during school holidays and medical or dental appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.

If your child will be absent, please call the SunRidge office at [707-824-2844](tel:707-824-2844) and provide your child's name, the date and reason for the absence, and the name of the parent or guardian verifying it.

For qualifying unavoidable absences of three or more consecutive school days, families may request Independent Study. Teachers need at least 12 school days' advance notice to prepare the necessary materials. And if getting your child to school is becoming difficult, please reach out to us early. We would much rather work together to address a challenge before absences accumulate.

Last year, our community set a goal of 94% attendance, and together we achieved 94.06%.

This year, let's continue that commitment—not simply because attendance is something we measure, but because being here matters. It matters to a child's learning, to their class community, and to our ability to continue providing the extraordinary educational experiences that make SunRidge SunRidge.



SunRidge Boys' Basketball Approaches *Coach needed*

Our school is looking for a coach for our Fall Boys' Basketball team, a mix of 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

There is a stipend available, and some requirements to complete **before the season starts**. As Athletics Director, I can work with you to get you up and running for a successful season. Game days are mostly, if not all, **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**, and **practices** are on those days too. Practices would need to start the **1st-2nd week of October**, with two days a week practicing minimum (1.5 hours per practice after school).

Please direct any inquiries to dthurber@twinhillsusd.org

Parent Council Update

Need something done (and want a great referral)? Have a business you'd like to promote to the SunRidge community?

We're putting together a SunRidge "Parent Skills" Directory to make it easy to tap into the incredible expertise this community has.

[Please fill out this form](#) to share your own skillsets—and stay tuned for a Parent Skills Directory, to be circulated later this year!

Contact Parent Council at srpc@twinhillsusd.org with any questions.

SunRidge Parent Council Meetings are held the **First Tuesdays** of each month in the SunRidge School Library from 5:30-7:00. A zoom link is offered:

<https://twinhillsusd-org.zoom.us/j/83958999129?pwd=bvcRSVvKr1OhGwz0dAJnt7fiAlUb5m.1>

All are invited. Next Meeting: Tuesday October 6



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@twinhillsusd.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.