



**K-8**



**Connect**

---

**2019-2020 Parent Handbook:  
Events, Info, and FAQ's**

---

171 Mills Road Sacramento, CA 95864

School Phone: 916.575.2390

PTA Email: [SOK8Connect@gmail.com](mailto:SOK8Connect@gmail.com)

# Sierra Oaks K-8 2019-2020 Calendar

## August

8/15 First Day of School  
 8/21 Minimum Day (Dismissal at 12:30 p.m.)  
 8/21 Back to School Night

## September

9/4 K-8 Connect Meeting (Evening)\*  
 9/7 Greek Isles (Sign-Up Party)\*\*  
 9/2 Labor Day Holiday - No School  
 9/20 Family Movie Night  
 9/28 Oktoberfest Street Party (Sign-Up Party)\*\*

## October

10/2 K-8 Connect Meeting (Evening)\*  
 10/4 Non-Instructional Day - No School  
 10/7 Non-Instructional Day - No School  
 10/12 Harvest Festival  
 10/12 Dads and Crafts (Sign-Up Party)\*\*  
 10/14-16 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Marin Headland Field Trip  
 10/14-22 Apex Leadership Week  
 10/23 Sierra Oaks Apex Fun Run  
 10/26 Nightmare on ARD (Sign-Up Party)\*\*  
 10/28-11/1 Red Ribbon Week

## November

11/6 K-8 Connect Meeting (Evening)\*  
 11/11 Veterans Day Holiday - No School  
 11/12 Non-Instructional Day - No School  
 11/14 Family Fun Paint Night (Sign-Up Party)\*\*  
 11/18-22 Minimum Days (11:25 a.m. Dismissal)  
 11/25-29 Thanksgiving Break

## December

12/2-6 Scholastic Winter Book Fair  
 12/3 Cougar Caroling  
 12/4 K-8 Connect Meeting (Morning)\*  
 12/4 Souper Mom Happy Hour Sign-Up Party\*\*  
 12/14 Holiday Boutique  
 12/23 First Day of Winter Break

## January

(No K-8 Connect Meeting in January)  
 1/3 Last Day of Winter Break  
 1/6 Non-Instructional Day - No School  
 1/20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School  
 1/24 Father-Daughter Dance (Sign-Up Party)\*\*  
 1/31 Missoula Theater

## February

2/5 K-8 Connect Meeting (Evening)\*  
 2/8 Somms and Moms (Sign-Up Party)\*\*  
 2/17-21 Presidents' Week - No School  
 2/28 Disco Bingo

## March

3/4 K-8 Connect Meeting (Evening)\*  
 3/10-13 Minimum Days (11:25 a.m. Dismissal)  
 3/12 Talent Show  
 3/16 Non-Instructional Day - No School  
 3/21 Sierra Oaks 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Auction

## April

4/1 K-8 Connect Meeting (Evening)\*  
 4/6-10 Spring Break  
 4/14-17 8<sup>th</sup> Grade High Sierra Trip

## May

5/6 K-8 Connect Meeting (Evening)\*  
 5/7 Mother-Son Fun Night (Sign-Up Party)\*\*  
 5/11-15 Scholastic Spring Book Fair  
 5/21 Open House  
 5/22 Minimum Day (12:30 p.m. Dismissal)  
 5/25 Memorial Day Holiday - No School  
 5/29 Field Day

## June

6/3 K-8 Connect Meeting (Evening)\*  
 6/9 Last Day of School (12:30 p.m. Dismissal)

### **How do I receive information from the school?**

The Cougar Chronicle: School administration and PTA collaborate on a newsletter called the Cougar Chronicle. It will reference important upcoming dates and events. The Cougar Chronicle is sent via email every two weeks to the primary email address associated with every student at Sierra Oaks. Hard copies are available in the school office.

Classroom Emails/Handouts: Each class has a room parent(s) who works with the teacher to send class specific information to parents, such as field trips, volunteer opportunities, class projects, etc. At the beginning of the school year, you will be given a Classroom Roster Form to provide your contact information for this purpose. Be sure to submit the completed form to your child's teacher to ensure you receive these emails. (The forms allow you to select whether you'd prefer to not have your contact information shared with the class.)

### **How can I volunteer at the school?**

PTA: You can join the Sierra Oaks Parent-Teacher Association ("PTA"). PTA membership costs \$15 a year, which allows you to vote on important school issues at the PTA's monthly "K-8 Connect" meetings. You can also chair or help volunteer during a PTA sponsored event, such as the Harvest Festival, Disco Bingo, or the Spring Auction. You can host/co-host a sign up party, which are discussed below under the Spring Auction.

K-8 Connect Meetings: These monthly meetings are held in the MP Room at 6:30 PM the first Wednesday of each month. K-8 Connect meetings are a great way to become informed about upcoming events on campus, get involved with volunteer opportunities on campus and at after school events, learn about resources on campus and within the community, engage with community and district officials, and share feedback and suggestions with teachers, staff, and PTA. Open to all Sierra Oaks K-8 families; information targeted at parents/caregivers of Sierra Oaks students.

In the classroom/on campus: There are a number of opportunities to volunteer in your child's classroom. You can sign up to be the room parent for your child's class, and help the teacher with classroom communication and in finding volunteers when needed. Each class also has an art docent, who presents periodic prepared art lessons to the class. Volunteers may also be needed to help chaperone field trips, supervise reading groups (in younger grades), and prepare homework packets, etc., depending on the needs of the teacher. Crafty parents can make the class pumpkin for the Harvest Festival and/or the class auction project for Open House. Note that to volunteer in class, you must be fingerprinted by the SJUSD. Instructions for how to be fingerprinted can be found at <https://www.sanjuan.edu/fingerprinting>. Fingerprinting done with other entities (like an employer) does not satisfy the school's fingerprinting requirement. However, you only have to be fingerprinted once (not annually), and it is free.

### **What school events take place during the year?**

Back to School Night: An evening at the beginning of the school year where you have the opportunity to meet your child's teacher(s) and hear about what they have planned for the year. The PTA and school administration also provide information at the event.

Family Movie Night: A free PTA sponsored event early in the year where families watch a family-friendly movie on the field behind campus. Concessions and food trucks are available.

Harvest Festival: A PTA sponsored carnival like event (typically in October) where kids can play games and do crafts, etc. Admission is free, but tickets are needed to play games and do other activities. Each class submits a pumpkin for a pumpkin decorating contest. The winning pumpkin earns a party for its class.

Red Ribbon Week / APEX Fun Run: Two weeks during October focused on making healthy choices, which culminates in a fun run school fundraiser. Students ask for donations from family and friends, which can be made on a per lap or flat donation basis.

Halloween: On Halloween, children can wear school appropriate costumes to school. At the beginning of the day, students parade around the blacktop with their student buddies. "Boo grams" are sold (\$1 each) by student leadership for a few days leading up to Halloween. Students can purchase and send boo grams to a friend(s).

Scholastic Book Fairs: Two, week-long book fairs (fall/spring) held in the library where students can purchase books, posters, and other fun items before and after school and during their lunch period.

Cougar Caroling: Sierra Oaks students visit neighborhood homes to sing holiday and winter songs. This is typically coordinated with the Book Fair so that families can peruse books before/after caroling.

Holiday Boutique: This annual event features many local merchants and artists with jewelry, handbags, women's and children's clothing, holiday decor, handmade hats and scarves, vintage home, garden and holiday decor, sweet and savory treats, a local children's book author, homemade soap and so much more! All proceeds benefit Sierra Oaks School.

Disco Bingo: A free PTA sponsored event in the multipurpose ("MP") room. Local DJ Steve Buzzard plays music and leads several rounds of bingo. This is a fun family event for all ages!

Missoula Theater: A PTA sponsored event. Missoula Children's Theatre comes to campus for a week to put on a student play. Auditions take place on the Monday of that week, rehearsals are held Tuesday through Thursday, and performances are held on Friday. Parts are available for most grades.

Father-Daughter Dance: DJ'd by Steve Buzzard and held in the MP room. This is a Sign-Up Party, so tickets must be purchased before the event at [www.SierraOaksAuction.com](http://www.SierraOaksAuction.com)

Spring Auction: This event is the largest PTA fundraiser of the year. It is an adult-only evening that helps fund important school items such as literacy programs, field trips, and technology. The ticket price includes admission and dinner and some hosted beverages. A cash bar is typically also available. This year's auction will be

held on March 21, 2020, at Del Paso Country Club. During the evening, there are silent and live auctions. In the past, live auction items have included having your child act as principal for the day, weekend vacation home stays, and orthodontic services. Silent auction items often include hotel stays, restaurant gift certificates, exercise class gift certificates, swimming lesson packages, and passes to museums/zoos/amusement parks. Tickets to "sign up" parties are also available for purchase. Sign up parties are hosted events (parties, etc.) where the host family(ies) pay for the cost of the event. 100% of ticket sales to attend a sign up party go to the PTA. Some sign up parties sell out at the auction depending upon their size and popularity. Others may have remaining tickets available for purchase in the office leading up to the event.

Talent Show: A student talent show for all grades in the spring. Participants perform for the school during the school day and put on an evening performance for families.

Mother-Son Fun Night: An evening event during the spring where DJ Steve Buzzard leads sports/games and dancing with moms and their sons in the MP room. This is a Sign-Up Party, so tickets must be purchased before the event at [www.SierraOaksAuction.com](http://www.SierraOaksAuction.com)

CAASPP Spirit Days: The school has spirit days and rallies leading up to the state CAASPP testing in the spring.

Open House: An evening near the end of the school year where families can visit their child's (and any other) classroom to see examples of what the students have done throughout the year.

Field Day: A fun day towards the end of the school year where students participate in different games/events on campus. Some of the events involve water, so it is recommended that students bring a change of clothes.

End of Year Swim Party: On the last day of school, students can purchase tickets to attend an end of the year swim party at Rio Del Oro Swim & Racquet Club. Each child must have adult supervision, and parents can attend for free. Concessions are available for purchase.

Middle School Dances: There are three middle school dances on campus during the school year.

Ice Cream Sales: Ice cream treats are sold for \$1 immediately after school gets out on Thursdays in the school courtyard.

### **Miscellaneous**

Teachers and staff hand out “Cougar Cash” to students to recognize positive behavior. Cougar Cash can be used to purchase fun items in the Cougar Cash store, which is in the library.

“Gotchas” are also used to recognize positive behavior, but are given out less frequently. They are sorted by grade, and one gotcha is pulled for each grade once a week on Thursdays. The winners get a free ice cream treat and a place in the front of the line at the weekly ice cream sales.

Upper class students are paired with lower grade “buddies” to encourage a sense of community among the grades on campus. Buddies meet with each other periodically to work on reading and other activities.

Fridays are “Cougar Pride” days when students are encouraged to wear Sierra Oaks apparel or any blue shirt. The class with the most participation gets some sort of recognition, such as a visit from “Paws,” the school mascot.

### **What are popular extracurricular activities?**

The following are examples of some of the after school sports/activities enjoyed by Sierra Oaks students. (The list is not exhaustive.)

- Band - Led by Band Instructor Mohammad Hassani: mohammad.hassani@sanjuan.edu
- Choir - Led by the school’s music teacher, Mrs. Mora: adrien.mora@sanjuan.edu
- Missoula Theater (See above)
- Spanish (Weekly after school class on campus through the Mission Oaks Recreation & Parks District - <https://www.morpd.com/youth-teen>)

- Sierra Oaks Recreational Soccer League (Boys and girls teams ages 4 and up through the Sierra Oaks Soccer Club - <http://www.sierraoakssoccer.org/>)
- After school Art and “Early Engineer” Classes (Weekly on campus classes through Dream Enrichment Classes - <https://dreamclasses.org/>)
- Basketball (3rd-8th grade girls and boys teams through Mission Oaks Recreation & Parks District - <https://www.morpd.com/youth-teen>; boys and girls K-8th grade teams through Buzzardball - <http://www.buzzardballhoops.net>)
- Flag Football (4th-8th grade girls and boys teams through Mission Oaks Recreation & Parks District - <https://www.morpd.com/youth-teen>)
- Volleyball (4th-8th grade girls and boys teams through Mission Oaks Recreation & Parks District - <https://www.morpd.com/youth-teen>)
- Track (1st - 6th grade girls and boys teams through Mission Oaks Recreation & Parks District - <https://www.morpd.com/youth-teen>)
- Baseball/Softball/T-ball (Several leagues are available including River Park Youth Baseball- <http://riverpark.siplay.com/site/>; Arden Little League - <http://www.ardenlittleleague.com/>; East Sacramento Little League - <http://www.eastsaclittleleague.org/eastsacll>)
- Boy and Girl Scouts - Go to [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org) or [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) to find a local chapter

## Middle School Information

### Academics:

Standard Classes:

Every Sierra Oaks K-8 Middle School Student will be assigned to a Homeroom with a smaller class size of only 25. They will also attend English, History, Science, Math, PE and a 12 week elective that changes at the end of each trimester.

\*\*All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students take Math 6. No advanced math courses available for this grade.

Advanced Classes:

Accelerated 7<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics – for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students scoring at or above grade level in mathematics. Students begin with 7<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics and transition into 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics (Preparing to take IM1, high school level mathematics)

Integrated Math 1 (IM1) – for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who took Accelerated 7, or who are scoring at or above grade level mathematics.

### Activities

Dances – 3 per year ( 1 per trimester) + 1 for 8<sup>th</sup> graders only

Rallies – 2-3 per year – usually coinciding with our volleyball and basketball team seasons. Grade levels compete in games of skill and show their spirit.

Sports - Flag Football (if enough students sign up), Volleyball, Basketball. (We'd like to add track).

College & Career – Every grade goes on a college visitation field trip:

- 6<sup>th</sup> – Jr. College
- 7<sup>th</sup> Sac State
- 8<sup>th</sup> UC Davis

Guest speakers/Assemblies – 2-3 times per year

Academic Awards – Students receiving academic honors attend an honor roll assembly at the end of each trimester

Overnight Field Trip – 3 days/ 2 nights with a focus on science curriculum and team building

Lunch sports and skill challenges – volleyball, pickle ball, spike ball, basketball tournaments & skill challenges.

Big Buddies – middle school students work with a younger student 1-2 times per month in a supervised setting helping with reading, playing games, learning rules, team building, etc.

Student Clubs – students have the ability to propose new clubs. Our recently active clubs all take place during lunchtime and include:

- Inclusion Club
- Yearbook Club
- Student Greeters (trained to support new students)
- Club Live (Tobacco Use Prevention Education).

Snack period – Every day Mrs. McQuoid and select students run a Middle School Snack Shack with healthy items available for purchase with cougar cash

Cougar Cash Mystery Days – One day per month, students can use cougar cash to purchase a special treat

Band – open to all after school, 2x per week currently

Choir – open to all, let by Music Instructor Mrs. Mora

Spelling Bee – open to all 4th-8th Grade students, top three advance

### Electives:

Students have an opportunity to cast votes for which electives they would like to have offered — listed below are the options.

#### **Accelerated PE**

This class is not a regular PE class; we will be learning concepts and analyzing different sports in greater depth. Sports/activities that may be included, depending on weather, season, time, and space availability (and not necessarily in this order) are: football, soccer, basketball, lacrosse, volleyball, rugby, track and field, tennis,

badminton, pickle ball, gymnastics, hockey, wrestling, softball, cricket, ultimate disc, golf, disc golf, yoga, and possibly dance and rhythmic activities.

## **Drama**

Do you enjoy entertaining others by telling jokes or stories? Actors in this drama class will learn the basics of storytelling through theatre and acting. They will discover how to create a strong presence on stage with the practice of projecting their voice, developing character, and blocking scenes. Each actor will develop these skills by playing theatre games, creating skits, and performing monologues and short scenes. Break out your inner movie star!

## **Robotics** (not the same as two years ago)

Work in small teams to build robots that are drivable by wireless control and /or run automatically using sensors. The robots will be designed to meet different challenges, such as racing an obstacle course, moving objects from one place to another, or carrying out a chain reaction. Basic coding, engineering and physics principles will be covered. Team work, collaboration, and problem-solving skills will be practiced daily.

## **Spanish 1A (This is a year-long commitment – students enrolled will remain enrolled the entire year).**

This class covers the first half of high school level Spanish. The curriculum involves verb conjugation and beginning oral dialogue.

## **Spanish 1B (This is a year-long commitment – students enrolled will remain enrolled the entire year).**

This class is a continuation of Spanish 1A. After a two-week review of Spanish 1A, the curriculum involves more verb conjugation including past tense, present progressive, conditional and future tenses. There will be a continuation of oral dialogue. An extensive vocabulary will be learned and applied through assignments, exhibits, and field trips.

## **Speak and Write (Project Based Learning – English)**

1. Bi-weekly – experiment with a different creative writing technique. The subject will remain the same, but your presentation will change. We will write in different voices, point of views, action, description and more.
2. Bi-weekly we will have “read-in.” You will present pieces of your writing to your classmates. You will learn to modulate tone and volume, speak with confidence, and use proper body language.

## **STEAM**

Science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics come together in this class. Topics covered will include computer science, environmental science, geometric art, engineering challenges, model construction, as well as structure and function in living things. Assignments will be a combination of individual and group projects emphasizing problem solving, creativity, and attention to detail.

## **Student Leadership**

This trimester class is designed to help you discover and develop your talents as a leader. Everyone has the potential to lead, and every day provides you with opportunities and possibilities to lead. In this class you will be actively engaged in activities such as group discussions, reflections/journaling, planning school dances, spirit rallies, fundraisers, spirit days, and school and community. As you learn how to integrate your leadership skills into your everyday life you will become more confident in your potential and your abilities as a leader.

## **Technology Team**

Learn how to use the Google Suite programs, computer programming, animation and more. We will also work with video and editing including working with a green screen. Come join our Tech Team!

# Sierra Oaks Staff Directory

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GRADE / TIME	LOCATION	POSITION
GRAY	Carrie	K	Kinder	Teacher
O'BRIEN	Amy	K	Kinder	Teacher
VOTAW	Jana	K	Room 21	Teacher
BRIDGES	Richele	1	Room 12	Teacher
GILBERT	Emily	1	Room 18	Teacher
MCHARGUE	Meredith	1	Room 19	Teacher
BRISCOE	Brooke	2	Room 20	Teacher
DRONBERGER	Judy	2	Room 17	Teacher
HUCKELL	Marci	2	Room 11	Teacher
CHIDO	Enrico	3	Room 15	Teacher
SENDEJAS	Lynn	3	Room 16	Teacher
VELLA	Jenny	3	Room 14	Teacher
VAZQUEZ	Megan	3-6 Special Ed	Room 25	Teacher
MACOMBER	Kara	¾ Combo	Room 7	Teacher
MUGNAINI	Teres	4	Room 9	Teacher
WINKLER	Kathleen	4	Room 8	Teacher
BENJAMIN	Courtney	5	Room 10	Teacher
GUNDLACH	Marni	5	Room 1	Teacher
NESCI	Elizabeth	6	Room 3	Teacher
ROUSE	Leslie	6	Room 2	Teacher
MCQUIOD	Vicky	6/7	Room 5	Teacher
CONOVER	Jessica	7	Room 6	Teacher

FAULKNER	Deborah	7	Room 4	Teacher
SPENSER	Baylee	6/8	Room 29	Teacher
LIBY	Vanessa	8 and Yearbook	Room 32	Teacher
STECK	Shawn	7/8	Room 28	Teacher
HUGHES	Rebecca	Mon-Fri	Room 30	ELD
AL NIDAWI	Yusra	Mon-Fri	Yard Duty	Yard Duty
AQUILINA	Jennifer	Mon & Fri	Yard Duty	Yard Duty
WARDAK	Hamnida	Mon-Fri	Yard Duty	Yard Duty
YOACHUM	Brandy	Mon-Fri	Yard Duty	Yard Duty

HUERTA	Dagoberto	PM	Custodian Room	Custodian
SAWIN	Mike	AM	Custodian Room	Custodian
WILLIAMS	Chris	SUB	Custodian Room	Custodian
BALABAN	Anna	Wed	Front Office	Speech
DITTMER	Kari		Front Office	VP
ENGLISH	Matt		Front Office	Principal
FARRACE	Maria		Front Office	Speech
JONES	Cindysue		Front Office	Attendance
MEYER	Lori		Front Office	Secretary
ATHERLEY	Cheryl		Library	Librarian
ESTERKYN	Lyle	PE	Room 30	PE Teacher
LADAGE	Patrise	PE Grades 1-5	Room 31	PE Teacher

MASIEL	Anthony	PE	Room 26	PE Teacher
JOHNSON	Michelle		Room 25	IA III
SAMUELSON	Katherine		Room 25	IA III
BROOKE-STILES	Sarah	Tues & Wed	Room 26	Social Worker
GARCIA	Rachel	Tues & Wed	Room 26	Counselor
JACOME	Lita	Mon & Fri	Room 26	Psychologist
DOHERTY	Martha	Mon & Thurs	Room 26	Social Worker
BUSBY	Todd		Room 31	TCH RSP
CHAPMAN	Amanda	Wed & Fri	Room 31	TCH RSP
ROBERTS	Lisa		Room 31	IA II
SCOTT	Erica		Room 31	IA II
JONES	Michael	Tues, Wed. Thurs	Storage Closet	Art Teacher
MORA	Adrian	Tues, Wed. Thurs	Room 26	Music Teacher

All teachers/staff can be reached at their email SJUSD email address which is formatted as follows:

[firstname.lastname@sanjuan.edu](mailto:firstname.lastname@sanjuan.edu)

# K-8 Connect

~Monthly meetings to share, inform, and collaborate~

## **K-8 Connect meetings are a great way to:**

- Become informed about upcoming events on campus - calendars and parent handbooks available!
- Get involved with volunteer opportunities on campus and at after school events - we need your help!
- Learn about resources on campus & within the community
- Engage with teachers, staff, and community members
- Share feedback and suggestions with teachers, staff, & PTA

**Held in the MP Room every first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM** (please note exceptions):

September 4th : New Beginnings

October 2nd: Campus Safety & Security

November 6th: 6-8th Grade Teachers & Parents

December 4th: Programs & Clubs (Morning Meeting)

January NO MEETING

February 5th: K-2nd Grad Teachers & Parents

March 4th: 3-5th Grade Teachers & Parents

April 1st: Gratitude & Giving

May 6th: Ideas for next year

June 3rd: Wrap up!

**FREE CHILDCARE AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY DURING ALL K-8 CONNECT EVENING MEETINGS!**

Questions? Email: [SOK8Connect@gmail.com](mailto:SOK8Connect@gmail.com)

# 2019-2020 PTA Board Roster

## **President**

Darcey Schmelzer

## **VP of Communications**

Eric Mayhew

## **VP of Events**

Mario DeBernardo /Sarah Avey

## **Treasurer**

Chris Tzimenatos

## **Financial Secretary**

Carrie Engh

## **Board & Membership Secretaries**

Sally Petree /Natalie Hanson

## **Upper Grade Liaisons**

Catherine Saslow /Lisa Ruttan

## **Parliamentarian**

Jason Schmelzer

## **Auditor**

Ann Montgomery

## **Historian**

Shelly John

**Any Questions or Comments for the PTA can be sent to:**

**[SOK8Connect@gmail.com](mailto:SOK8Connect@gmail.com)**