



HOME OF THE
BOBCATS

**Sonora Elementary
School & District
Office**
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Sonora, CA 95370

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Chris Boyles

Assistant Principal

Kristie Quinn

Mission Statement

We believe that the school experience should be safe, positive, and successful, while contributing to the physical, social, and mental well being of the child.

August 4th, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the entire SES staff, I am very honored and excited to welcome you back to Sonora Elementary School. If you are new to our school, we are excited to have your child join us and be a part of our school community. Our staff has been working hard in preparing for another great year at Sonora Elementary School and look forward to seeing you back on **August 22nd**. As always, we will dedicate our efforts to make **safety, education, and service (SES)** the primary goals for your experience with Sonora Elementary School. In addition, for the new school year, we want to focus on improving school attendance. I believe in the saying, "the best ability is availability." Our school is a better place, on a daily basis, when your student is here.

I am also very excited to share some new information and changes here at SES:

- Our School Office opens on Tuesday, August 8th. **It is very important for our school to have your current contact information** (mailing address, phone numbers, and emergency contacts). If you would like to make these changes, please do so as soon as possible.
- Using our parent notification system, ParentSquare, we will communicate your student's placement by a phone call and a text message on Friday, August 18th at 6:00 pm. Schedules for 7th and 8th grade will be handed out in the gym on **Thursday, August 17th, from 3:30 - 5:30 pm, Monday, August 21st, from 5:00 - 7:00 pm**, and in the morning on the first day of school, in the gym.
- On **Monday, August 21st, at 5:00 p.m.**, we will be hosting a beginning of the year party in the amphitheater, in honor of welcoming our new TK/K through 8th grade students. There will be an outdoor BBQ, music, and a tour of the campus. This is an anxious time for our new TK/K parents, so this will be a great time to meet your child's teacher, the components of the TK/K day, see the classrooms, and get your questions answered. 8th grade student leaders will be on-site to provide tours and answer questions about SES.
 - **5:00 - 6:00 pm** **New Student (1st-8th grade) BBQ & Orientation (Amphitheater)**
 - **5:30 pm** **TK/K Meet & Greet (Back to School)**
 - **6:00 pm** **TK/K BBQ (Amphitheater)**
- School begins daily at 8:00 a.m. for our TK students, 8:10 a.m. for our K – 3rd graders, and 8:20 a.m. for 4th – 8th grade students. Release time, on regular school days, will be 1:45 p.m. for TK, 1:55 for K-3rd grade and 2:45 for 4th-8th grade.
- **For the first four days of school**, to help with traffic and acclimate the TK/K families to the school, TK/K will begin at 8:45 a.m. each day. This will allow you to walk your TK/K student to the classroom and not battle the typically heavy parking lot traffic for the first week.
- Sign-ups for Sonora Elementary Co-Ed (**Boys & Girls**) **Cross Country** and **Girls Basketball** will begin during the first week of school. These activities are for 6th – 8th grade athletes. Girls Basketball and Cross Country practice will begin on Monday, August 28th. Female athletes can do both sports, working with their coaches on practice availability.
- Once a month, SES will have shortened day, with a common release (1:00 pm) for all students. This will allow for professional development time in the afternoon for our staff. These days are the second Wednesday of the month, noted on our school calendar.
- If your student is a new bus rider, please call and check with our office, beginning August 8th, for the location and time for morning pick-up and afternoon drop-off.
- For the 2023-2024 school year, all parent volunteers in the classroom and on field trips will need to complete the new Parent Volunteer Policy paperwork, **which will include getting fingerprint clearance** through Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools.
- Reminder, the parking lot will be very congested for the first few days of school, morning and after school, so please drive **cautiously and with patience**. It will get better as the days pass.
- A great way to be involved in your child's school and make it a great experience for all is to participate in Support Sonora School. SSS does so much for our students and school and we need your help in running our fundraising activities. If you are interested, please let our School Office know. **We need strong, active parents to make SES a great place to be.**
- Mark your calendars for **Back to School Night, September 7th**. More information to follow.

We encourage each of you to become involved in your school, please keep the communication lines to your child's teacher(s) open, and be a part of this exciting time. We are all here to educate and care for your child, so letting us know how we can help, or solve any problems, is a vital component to the success of our school.

Sincerely,

Chris Boyles, Principal