

SNACS Volunteer Program

SNACS is known for its motto: *Bringing the Small School Community Back to the Neighborhood*. Establishing and maintaining a thriving small school community involves families and staff working together participating in many activities, events, and celebrations throughout the school year. The small school community network is the foundation to student achievement and life-long learning.

School community is promoted through collaborative learning where younger students work with and learn from the older students and parents work as partners in their child's educational experiences. At SNACS, parent volunteers are vital to help facilitate daily activities and participate in events. SNACS families are embraced as important stakeholders who have a voice.

SNACS promotes an environment where parents are welcomed to volunteer in and out of the classroom in a meaningful way. SNACS relies heavily on volunteers and requests that each family volunteer 10 hours per month. Volunteers play an important role and contribute valuable time towards helping our small school community. We are grateful to our volunteers and want to ensure volunteerism is a pleasurable experience for everyone. There are several basic guidelines and procedures to help keep our volunteer program effective and efficient with safety and student learning as the driving forces.

SNACS has a list available for suggested ways to fulfill family volunteer expectations. However, SNACS encourages each family to use its unique talents and interests in volunteering at school. The school will benefit the most when volunteerism is conducted with school spirit and passion for learning.

Family members who are interested in starting a new event or helping in a way that will enhance the student learning environment should talk to their child's teacher and/or the front office.

SNACS Guiding Principles in Supporting Family Involvement

Families are valued as their child's first teacher, bringing a wealth of information, which supports the whole child approach in education.

Families, regardless of family structure; socioeconomic status, racial, religious, and cultural backgrounds; gender; abilities; or preferred language are welcomed and encouraged to participate in their child's education as a valued and integral member of the school community.

Family support and participation is vital to every child's success in all aspects of life.

Parents are partners in their child's education and work collaboratively to support student learning and a small school community.

Parents actively participate in developing personal learning plans that drive their child's education.

Parents and families are encouraged to engage in meaningful two-way communication with educators, as partners, to enhance student learning through activities, policies, practices, and programs.

Students and their families are supported in a P-8 system that will result in sense of community, belonging, and increased student achievement.

Parents and students have a voice and a choice in their child's education. We appreciate parents choosing Sierra Nevada Academy Charter School..

SNACS
13880 Stead Blvd.
Reno, Nevada 89506
Phone: 775-677-4500
Fax: 775-677-4441



Sierra Nevada Academy Charter School

*Bringing the Small School Community
Back to the Neighborhood*

SNACS Family Involvement & Supporting School Community

*With every student and their family, by name and face,
to graduation from SNACS*

Events and Celebrations are opportunities for families to contribute to the school community. Family volunteers and community organizations are vital to help facilitate activities and participate in events. Please see your child's teacher to plan, organize and participate in events!

Daily Classroom Activities—SNACS implements a unique model where differentiated instruction is the core of classroom activities. Family members who are able to participate in the classroom are always welcomed and encouraged. Everyday is a celebration at SNACS!

Arts Celebration Days—SNACS students participate in celebrating the arts with organizations such as the Nevada Museum of Art and Tahoe Players to involve students in art studio, history, theater, music, and dance. Families are welcome to attend and participate in these events!

Author's Book Publishing—Every student publishes a hard cover book. Students create their own stories and fully engage in the writing process as they write, edit, design, and illustrate their work. The world of writing books leaves an open ended opportunity for creativity. The event is culminated at Barnes and Noble where SNACS hosts an Author's Signing Event. Each student has the official unveiling of their publication as they sign the first copy of their book in front of their family and friends.

Outdoor Lab Experiences—Bringing the classroom studies to the real world is an exciting way to engage students in expeditionary learning. Teachers instruct and engage students in classroom activities on habitats, environmental science, art, culture, history, astronomy, and leadership skills and then allow students opportunities to apply their knowledge in real world settings. Families participate in canoeing, kayaking, fishing, flower, fauna, and tree identifying, animal observing, hiking, biking, ranger activities, orienteering, rock climbing, and swimming. The SNACS Community has traveled to places such as Mt. Lassen, Davis Creek, Washoe Lake, Boca Stampede, Mt. Mammoth, Fort Churchill, Fallen Leaf Lake, Point Reyes and Yosemite National Park.

School Dances—Students and families participate in various school and grade level dances.

Fire Prevention and Safety—Onsite visit from local firemen who teach children fire safety and stop, drop, and roll through interactive activities. Students test their abilities to hold the hose and explore the inside of the fire engine. Parents are encouraged to attend and learn about fire prevention.

Nevada Ranch and Farm Days—Parents support this event by helping set up and run various activities including: onsite pumpkin patch, square dancing, petting zoo, roping and saddling, horseback riding presentation, pioneer experiences via baking and mining activities. Local square dance callers and ranchers come onsite to work with children. Families are welcome!

Lattinberry Farms— This is a family day trip to explore the farm, fruit & vegetable picking, pumpkin patch, farm animal tour, and scarecrow making. The event culminates with the SNACS Great Corn Maze Race!

Harvest Festival—Onsite carnival activities where every classroom is a fun filled carnival game area – complete with a student created haunted house. Families and friends are welcome!

SNACSGiving Festival - SNACS students and families participate in creating baskets of goodies for the local family shelter in Reno. Then, they participate in their own Thanksgiving Festival where all students gathered to enjoy a Thanksgiving feast.

SNACS Multicultural Celebration of Children Around the World—Every classroom focuses on the life of children in a different country. As a culminating event, classrooms are designed and set up as a different country. Students dress up, like the children in the country they are studying, and participate in activities that are representative of their country including food, activities, dance, etc.

Winter Celebration—SNACS students and families participate in making various winter crafts in each classroom including ornaments, candles, wreaths, pins, and gingerbread houses culminating with a caroling gathering in our circle.

Scientific Inquiry - Students explore the scientific process and experience a science fair creation through guided and supported activities in an inquiry based, hands-on approach. Families help children conduct various experiments.

Math Game Family Night—Students and their families come to celebrate learning about mathematics concepts, problem solving through playing games in all of the classrooms. Each room has a different theme or focus through gaming. Children and families learn a love of mathematics!

Invention Convention - Students collaboratively worked to build inventions out of everyday items such as a pair of glasses & spaghetti bridges/structures. Families support by assisting students in completing invention projects.

Celebrating Young Children through Picture Books - The NAEYC Week of the Young Child is held during the month of April. Various activities will be held all week and will culminate with students dressing up as their favorite book character or children's book author. Parents come dressed as book characters and read to children promoting a love of literacy.

Celebrating Nevada Charter Schools - National Charter School Week is celebrated across the county. SNACS will hold activities throughout the week to celebrate students, families, educators, and the community.

SNACS Fun Run & Earth Day Celebration— Students participate in creating earth awareness artifacts and establish displays to teach other students about earth day. Simultaneously students participate in the annual fun run where they run laps around the school campus to raise awareness on physical education, health, and nutrition. Parents are vital to tally laps and provide support.

SNACS Spring Fling – Students participate in outdoor carnival activities in a family filled event that includes bounce house, dunk tank and various other games. Parents help in managing games and booths at this carnival-like event.

Cinco de Mayo—SNACS students participate in Cinco de Mayo celebrations with various activities including food, dance, dress, and other celebratory customs. Families and children enjoy music and dance when our guest Mariachi band performs.

SNACS Field Day—Students participate in a fun filled outdoor lab of various games and activities such as a three legged race, water races, tug of war, long jump, relay races, board races, hula hoop contest, etc. Parents help coach field games.

SNACS Talent Show- SNACS staff and students participate in a talent show where they students (and families) compete against one another for the SNACS Idol winners.

SNACS Family Breakfasts SNACS staff members sponsor monthly themed pancake breakfasts where students and their families come early to school to enjoy a home-cooked breakfast. These events are themed in attire and celebrations.

SNACS Fundraisers and Book fairs—Several SNACS fundraisers and book fairs are vital to SNACS community and helping children succeed. Parents are encouraged to participate in these events.