

PRE-ARRIVAL HANDBOOK



2020



Valley
International Academy



Our location

Valley International Academy (VIA) is located on a sprawling 200+ acres located in a picturesque mountain setting. Neighbouring the tech-capital of the USA, Silicon Valley, VIA is a short 30-minute drive from the San Jose International Airport, 1-hour from vibrant San Francisco and only 5-minutes away from Saratoga village housing cafes, shopping centres, an array of restaurants, movie theatres, recreation centres and medical support.





Getting to Valley International Academy

San Jose International Airport (SJC) has daily direct flights within the United States and daily international flights with a stopover in San Francisco or Los Angeles.

Valley International Academy is also accessible by car from San Francisco, located only 50-minutes from San Francisco International Airport (SFO).

When you arrive

When you arrive at San Jose International Airport (SJC) SuperShuttle is the most convenient and popular shuttle service in the area.

Prior arrangements must be made via the website. Options range from shared shuttle service to private shuttles for larger groups.

To arrange, please go to:

<https://www.supershuttle.com/locations/sanjose-sjc/>

1. Collect your luggage.
2. Exit the airport through the doors in the arrival area.
3. Call 1 (650)-246-2740 and provide your confirmation number
4. Proceed to the "pre-arranged pick-up" located on the curb.

Where to stay

DOWNTOWN SARATOGA

Saratoga Oaks Lodge

14626 Big Basin Way
Saratoga, CA 95070
408-867-3307

1-888-867-3588

Includes free wi-fi,
parking, and continental
breakfast. Within walking
distance of restaurants
and downtown stores.



The Inn at Saratoga

20645 Fourth Street
Saratoga, CA 95070
1-800-543-5020

Includes free wi-fi,
parking and take-and-go
breakfast. Within walking
distance of restaurants
and downtown stores.





Life in San Jose, California

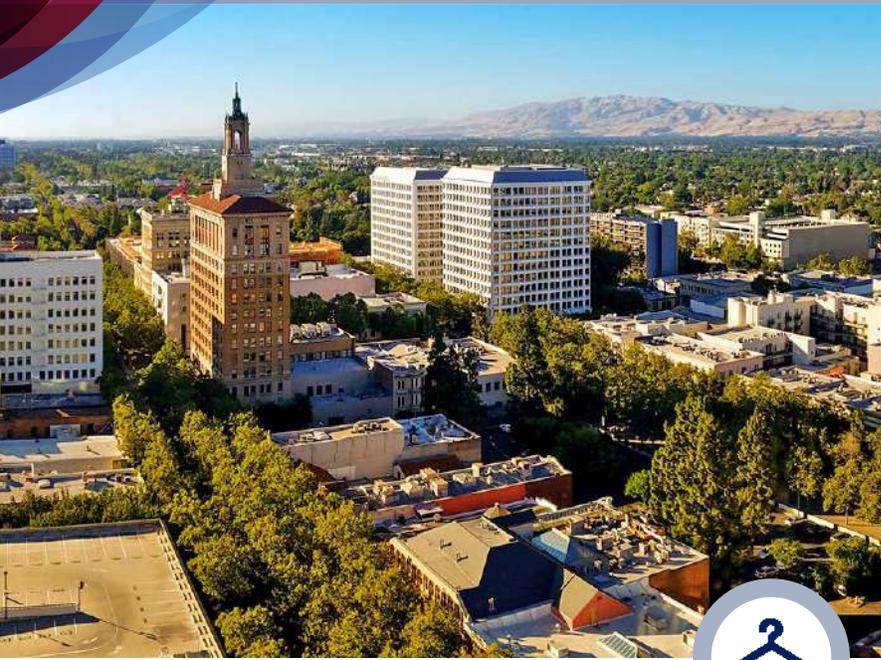


The town of Saratoga is a suburb of the third largest city in California, San Jose. Saratoga has a population of approximately 30,905 people while San Jose has a population of approximately 1.035 million.

Saratoga is known for its charming downtown area and its naturally gorgeous mountains and hillsides. For more information, please see www.saratoga.ca.us.

Valley International Academy is located in the mountains, approximately a four-mile drive from downtown Saratoga. The school is located on the grounds of Camp Saratoga. Within a 10 minute drive, students have access to both the cities of Saratoga and Los Gatos, both well-known for their restaurants, boutique shops, and amenities such as banks, drug stores, and more. Saratoga residents enjoy outdoor activities throughout the year with wonderful hiking trails, parks, and camp sites.

The unique location of VIA, provides students with a balanced living, academic and social environment. The campus' safe, gated community removes the VIA family from the noise and distractions of city life while also providing access to a variety of restaurants, movie theaters, and shopping in a short 10-minute drive. Students can easily access multiple shopping area and recreation centers from our school site.



Weather & Clothing

Our location in California sees four seasons. In the early fall and spring, temperatures can reach upwards of 90 degrees.

In the late fall and winter, students can expect rain and temperatures to drop into the 20s or 30s. As we are located in the mountains, temperatures can drop an additional 10 degrees cooler than in the downtown area.

We recommend that students dress in layers so that they are always prepared for both warm and cold weather. It is a good idea to bring a heavy jacket, a lightweight jacket and an umbrella. Since there are many outdoor activities and hiking trails, students should bring clothes and shoes appropriate for the outdoors. VIA is home to a beautiful swimming pool students can access all year round and we highly recommend packing appropriate swimwear.



Time Zone

Saratoga is located on Pacific Standard Time (PST) which is 8 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). During Daylight Savings Time, March to October, clocks are turned one hour ahead.

SAO PAULO: 4 HOURS AHEAD

ZURICH: 9 HOURS AHEAD

CHINA: 15 HOURS AHEAD

TOKYO: 16 HOURS AHEAD

MEXICO: 2 HOURS AHEAD

OTTOWA: 3 HOURS AHEAD





Getting around San Jose

The School provides a daily morning and afternoon shuttle from the Campbell Community Center and the Saratoga library to the School. The shuttle service also provides transportation for students who do not live on campus. The School regularly takes students to local shopping areas on weekends to meet student needs.

For students who wish to travel outside of these times, Uber and Lyft are available through the App and pick students up from the school campus. Students must sign-in and out.



Safety

Saratoga is a safe city compared to many larger cities throughout the world. Our school site is a gated community; visitors must be given access to the site. When off-campus, it is important to follow some basic safety guidelines:

- Do not walk alone at night
- Buddy system: Go out with at least one other person
- Always inform the dorm chaperone know about your plans
- Take care of valuable items when you are off campus

Frequently Asked Questions

Please find most frequently asked questions (FAQ) from families considering boarding at Valley International Academy. Can't find the answer below? Contact us directly at admissions@valleyacademy.org.

What kind of facilities does VIA offer?

Our boarding facilities are in a sought-after location, surrounded by 200 acres of redwood forestry. Our campus includes brand new residence buildings, a dining hall, assembly hall, gym and academic buildings. We also have a swimming pool, tennis court, an outdoor basketball court, art rooms and a beautiful forest trails as well as our neighboring stores and restaurants.

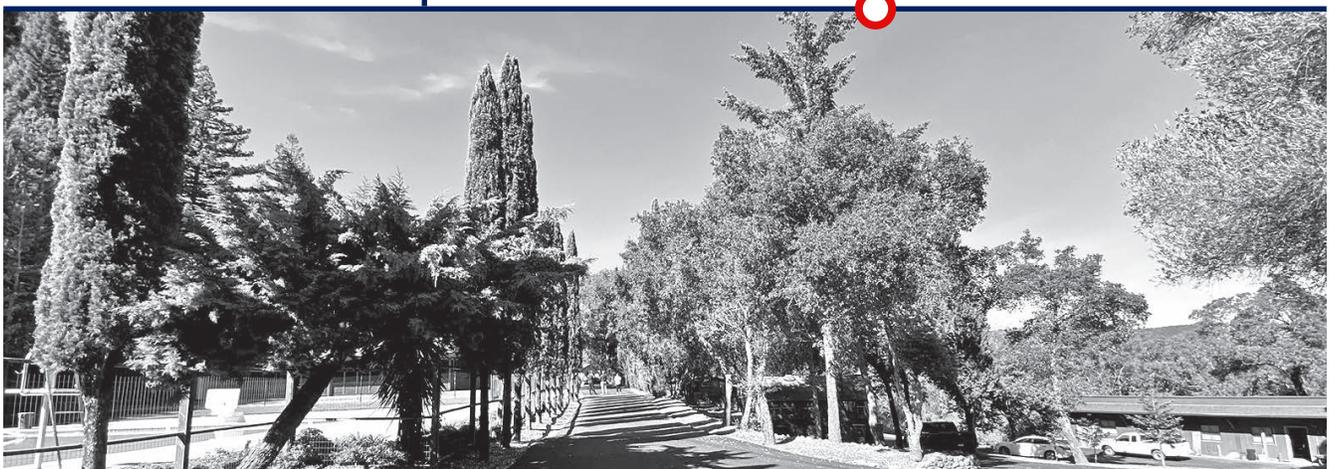
How many students live in a residence?

Our newly built dormitories are two-story and house 20 rooms. Each dorm is designed to house 40 students along with a dorm chaperone. The two story dorms feature a lounge area on each floor as well as community bathrooms.

Our residence facilities not only include rooms and single-sex bathrooms, but also common social spaces on each floor and kitchens in each building. Each residence building and each dorm room are able to be locked on the inside providing additional safety and security measures.

How many students are in each room?

Each room is shared between two students with a private sink and shared same-sex bathrooms on each floor.



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Are students expected to clean their rooms and do their own laundry?

Students are responsible for the cleanliness of their individual room. Common areas are cleaned by a cleaning service twice each week. Laundry facilities are available for student use.



6

What happens if my child becomes sick?

Dorm chaperones are the primary caretakers of students. If a student illness requires outside medical care, students will be taken to a local medical clinic for treatment. In the case of a medical emergency, students will be transported to the nearest hospital.

5

How are dorm students supervised?

Each floor is assigned a dorm chaperone. Dorm chaperones provide 24-hour supervision before and after school, on weekends, and during the night.

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Where do students eat their meals?

Dorm students are served three meals a day in the school cafeteria. During the lunch meal, our commuter students will join our dorm students. Students have the option to eat their meals in the cafeteria or at outside eating and community areas.

Students may not bring their meals back to the dormitory, although, students may eat snacks in the common areas of the dormitory. Students with special dietary needs MUST notify the school so that arrangements can be made.

8 What kinds of activities and trips might students participate in?

There are many activities that students may join while on campus. Activities include hiking, swimming, movies, community service, after-school activities, and trips to nearby cities.



9 What time are students expected to be back to their dorm at night, and how secure are the dorms?

Students have an “in dorm” and “in room” curfew and are monitored throughout the evening until bedtime. Students are not allowed to leave the campus after dinner unless they have permission or are with a staff member. Our campus is very safe and secure. We live in a secluded community which avoids many of the big city safety concerns. Our dorm chaperones ensure that all dorms are locked, and the students are either asleep or quietly studying in their rooms. Each student room has its own door lock.

10 What kind of transportation is provided for dormitory students?

The school provides transportation for school-sponsored supervised activities. Students who wish to leave campus on other occasions must make their own arrangements for travel. Lyft and Uber are options for student pick-up to and from campus.

What your dormitory fees include?

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MEALS

Our staff provide three meals each day. Meal hours are set unless students are otherwise notified. Snacks such as fruit and drinks are available throughout the day. The cafeteria also houses vending machines featuring snacks and drinks.

BEDROOM SUPPLIES

Dorm rooms are equipped with sheets, blankets, a pillow with a pillow case, a cabinet for storing and hanging clothes, and a desk.

LINENS

Students will be provided bed linens. Students are welcome to bring additional linens, blankets, or comforters with them if they wish.

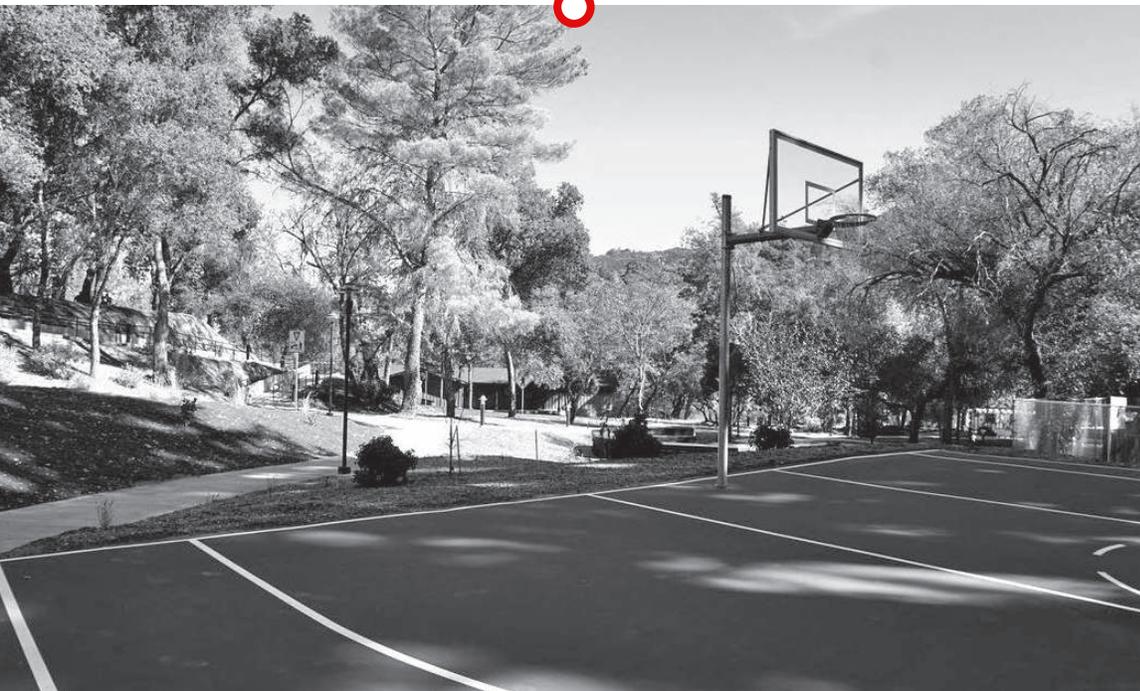
EVENING AND WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

We offer social activities in the evenings and on weekends for our boarding students. A sample of our activities may include: shopping excursions, trips to nearby cities, a movie at the theater, various cultural events, and more. Some entrance fees and transportation costs may be covered by the student.

Parents will receive an activities list and recreational handbook at the beginning of each Semester.

WI-FI

High speed Wi-Fi is included and available across the campus. Students are encouraged to bring their own computer to school to complete homework assignments independently. Smartphones are also welcome but may not be used in class.





What do I need to bring?

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Although Saratoga has generally a mild climate, it does, at times, have unpredictable weather. This said, it is important that students come equipped with clothing that can cover all weather conditions. You may consider the following a list of things to bring:

CLOTHING

- Socks
- Underwear
- Pyjamas
- Slippers and/or sandals/flip flops
- Bathroom
- Long-sleeve and short-sleeve t-shirts
- Pants
- Shorts
- Sweaters
- Lightweight jacket
- Heavy jacket
- Umbrella
- Shoes
- Bathing suit and beach towel

TOILETRIES

- Hair brush
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Soap or shower gel
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Towels
- Razor

ELECTRONICS

- Cell phone with charger
- Computer

OTHER ITEMS

- Translator
- Alarm clock
- Small portable radio or stereo system
- Items of personal interest (books, art supplies, etc.)
- Thumb drive
- Basic school supplies
- Bedroom linens.**

****Boarding students are supplied with bedsheets, a blanket, a comforter, a pillow and pillowcase, although, if students wish to bring their own, they are more than welcome to.**

For items the students are unable to bring in their suitcases, they can be mailed to the school or purchased during their first week on campus. Our staff will help students acquire the items they need.



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Do I need to bring cash?

We ask that students do not bring large amounts of money with them to school or keep large sums of money in their rooms throughout the school year. Students should either bring an international bank/credit card from their home country or open an American bank account upon arrival to school. The dorm staff are available to assist students in opening American bank accounts.



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How can parents be informed of their student's academic progress?

The school uses Jupiter as its school management system. Jupiter allows parents 24-hour access to their student's attendance, assignments, and grades. It also allows parents to contact teachers via email. Parents are sent their Jupiter log-in information the first week of school. Progress grades are emailed at the six and twelve-week mark of each semester; report cards are emailed at the end of each semester. In the event of an attendance, academic or disciplinary issues, the Head of School will contact parents; this is normally done via email.

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How do parents know about activities, deadlines, and other school news?

The school distributes via email a weekly newsletter each Monday during the school year. The newsletter highlights the events of the previous week, any weekly news, and a list of upcoming events at school and in the surrounding area.

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What if I forget my Jupiter log-in?

If you are having any issues accessing and/or remembering your log-in for Jupiter, simply contact the Head of School and she can help you.

What happens if my demographic information changes, such as my phone number or email address?

Any time your contact information changes, we ask that you please notify The School. It is important that The School have correct contact information for all families. New information can simply be sent to the Head of School.

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VALLEY INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

CALENDAR

2020

August

19 > NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
20 > SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS

September

7 > LABOR DAY – SCHOOL HOLIDAY

October

2 > SIX-WEEK PROGRESS REPORTS
12 > INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY
– SCHOOL HOLIDAY

November

11 > VETERAN'S DAY – SCHOOL HOLIDAY
13 > TWELVE-WEEK PROGRESS REPORTS
25–27 > THANKSGIVING BREAK

December

16–18 > FINAL EXAMS
19 > CHRISTMAS VACATION BEGINS
22 > TEACHER WORK DAY/MAKE UP EXAM DAY

2021

January

11 > NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
12 > SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS
18 > MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – SCHOOL HOLIDAY

February

12 > SIX WEEK PROGRESS REPORTS
15–19 > WINTER BREAK – SCHOOL HOLIDAY

March

12 > SCHOOL HOLIDAY

April

2 > TWELVE-WEEK PROGRESS REPORTS
5–9 > SPRING BREAK – SCHOOL HOLIDAY

May

3 > MEMORIAL DAY – SCHOOL HOLIDAY

June

8–10 > FINAL EXAMS
11 > GRADUATION
11 > MAKE UP EXAM DAY



Valley International Academy

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info@brookes.org

www.valleyacademy.org

 [valleyinternationalacademy](https://www.instagram.com/valleyinternationalacademy)

 [ValleyInternationalAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/ValleyInternationalAcademy)