



7/18/2020

Dear Santa Clara Adult Education Community,

I am very honored to write this letter of introduction as the new principal of Santa Clara Adult Education (SCAE). I'm writing it during a time of uncertainty and hope, as we work through changes in our society that we could never have imagined. But I assure you that despite these unusual times, I am committed to Santa Clara Adult Education now more than ever. My career at the Adult School started in 2008 as a teacher in the Parent Education program and I've worked in and led multiple SCAE programs since that time. I now look forward to building more relationships, developing programs, and supporting the needs of our diverse community of adult learners whether it be in-person, hybrid, or distance learning.

The mission of Santa Clara Adult Education is to empower adults of all ages to succeed in an ever-changing world. This past spring when we were suddenly required to shelter in place, many teachers not only continued to support student learning by teaching through virtual platforms but also provided invaluable connections for the students' social and emotional wellbeing. These gestures of warmth and strength give me the confidence that we will emerge from these times a stronger school community than ever before.

Life is unpredictable in many ways right now. I know many of you were planning on starting the school year in person and might be feeling anxious as to when school will resume as it was before. The Adult Education fall catalog was mailed to the public in the hope that we could reopen classes in-person, hybrid, and online. I can assure you that my priority as principal is to see our students on campus and welcome new students in person. While we work toward that goal we will continue to follow guidelines from the [CDC](#), [Santa Clara County Public Health Department](#), and [SCUSD](#). Therefore, the adult school will begin the 2020-21 school year predominantly with distance learning and we will continue with some outdoor classes and our medical training program while we work in line with the school district's reopening plans.

My goal as principal of the adult school is to work closely with our leadership team to integrate our programs with the school district's strategic plan and vision 2035 with innovation around students, staff, and systems. I look forward to continuing the work of SCAE that is so embedded in the community as well as collaborating to develop new class and program offerings to meet the needs of societal changes. I believe that the students are the center of school-related decision making and I'm excited for the future of Santa Clara Adult Education.

I hope you and your families continue to be well.

Sincerely,

*Carrie Casto*

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