



Santa Clara Adult Education

Where learning and community meet

14 ISSUE OCTOBER



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Santa Clara Adult Education Community,

As we head into the holiday season we are grateful for so many things at our Adult School. Seeing our students on campus and engaging in in-person learning is at the top of that list. The shifts our students and staff made to online learning was remarkable but now we are deeply thankful for the safe return of our students back to campus. Enrollment is increasing and we are humbled by the community's interests in Santa Clara Adult Education programs and also thankful for our dedicated staff.

In this newsletter you will learn about program development in Career Training and Education (CTE), learn of new staff, see upcoming classes for the next Fall session 2, and learn about all the courses that Santa Clara Adult Education has to offer.

With much appreciation and respect for our community, I hope you all have a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Carrie Casto
Principal

I just try to go out
and play as hard
as I can and let the
results take care of
themselves.

BUSTER POSEY

- **Program Updates**
- **New Staff Members**
- **Job Opportunities**
- **WASC Updates**
- **Reminders**
- **Food Distribution**
- **COVID Testing**
- **Calendar**

SANTA CLARA ADULT EDUCATION



Where children and parents have learned together - since 1981

Have you heard the sounds of children playing as you walk by Wilson Preschool?

We are thrilled to have our school filled with children and their parents once again. Students have been learning classroom routines, studying colors and exploring their new environment. Parents are connecting with one another and taking part in parent education discussions.

We have welcomed Ronia Tadros as a long-term paraeducator in our three classes. She went through a parent-participation preschool with her four children and is excited to be working with small children once again.



EXERCISE & WELLNESS

Fall term increased the number of in-person exercise classes including **Volleyball, Indoor Soccer, Karate, and Country Western Line Dance**. We are ALL invested in our health and safety at SCAE and thankful for the opportunity to come together and participate in physical activities with the community.



Aquatics Program



Swim Lesson: Beginner level classes offered in the evenings and Saturdays with over 75 swimmers this Fall!

Water Exercise: Aquatic teachers use water noodles and hand weights to enhance and challenge student workouts! Classes are offered 6 days per week both morning and evening hours.

Karate Class: Instructor, Wayne Krill and students



Line Dance Class: Instructor, Susan Sjostrom and students



ENRICHMENT

Gardening Class

On Saturday September 18 the garden class along with student volunteers were busily cleaning up plots, pathways, and sharing a potluck. The garden program would like to thank all the volunteers that showed up to help.

Pictured here are: Garden student Kristy Rosenbaum, Santa Clara High School Student volunteers: Jeremy Rosenbaum, Christopher Doan, and Parker Bradford. In the background is Jan Carey – Garden Instructor.



Canning and Preserving Classes

Instructor Margaret Paul and her students work hard preparing "A Duo of Floral Jams" with strawberry elderflower and raspberry violet.

In Margaret's next class "Duo of Apricot Jams" she will be teaching how to make Apricot Ginger Jam and Apricot Bourbon Pecan Jam!

[See Upcoming Class Schedule](#)

Jams make great gifts!! Don't miss it!

Woodworking Classes

Woodshop Instructor, Larry Truhe has developed another exciting class for the beginner woodworker – A Coaster Class. The class is very popular. Students have the opportunity to make a lovely coaster set for themselves or to give away as gifts.



Larry Truhe

Woodworking Instructor

Email: ltruhe@scusd.net



Larry offers a variety of entry level and advanced woodworking classes. To see other unique and interesting projects being offered, please go to: [Woodworking Classes](#)

SCAE is presently seeking experienced woodworkers to be volunteers on our woodworking classes. If you are interested please contact Rachael Peterson, Program Supervisor at rpeterson@scusd.net or at 408-423-3525.

SKILLS PLUS

Skills Plus is keeping our community informed with our new monthly newsletter. We hope to keep communication open, increase awareness and make students smile.

[See the October Newsletter](#)

Fall session 1 ending on October 22, and the first day of Fall session 2 is October 26.

Skills Plus student Nancy Kordestani at the Saving Stroke event at Los Lagos Golf Course in San Jose.



CAREER TRAINING EDUCATION (CTE)

Congratulations to the Medical Assistants in the day program that completed their classroom instruction on September 10. They are now participating in the externship portion of the class so they can apply the skills they learned and can gain hands-on experience.

The CTE Program is expanding! Programs to watch for in 2022 include:

- Scrum Fundamentals for Scrum Master and Agile Tech
- Bankworks
- Psychiatric Tech
- Financial Literacy
- Eye Care Technician



INDEPENDENCE NETWORK (IN)

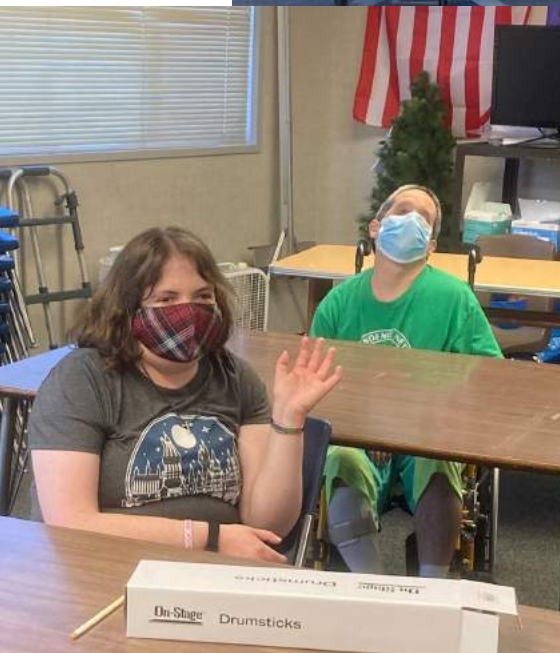


Independence Network returned to in-person instruction on August 16. Classes are live streamed to those students who have chosen to learn from home. We are offering a wide array of new classes for our students including meal preparation, wellness, music, book club, community navigation and money skills. Based on student feedback we will be adding new classes in our next terms which runs from October through December. Newly added classes will include Lego engineering, film study, photography and crafting.

Our parent group, Friends of Independence Network Students (FINS), in conjunction with The Mercury News' Wishbook program purchased a new van for Independence Network. The van was delivered to campus on September 22 and staff was trained on how to drive it and operate the lift. The students are looking forward to using the van to explore our community.

We've also added two new staff members to our team. Heather Goodman will be working as our wellness instructor. She has many years of experience teaching yoga and meditation and also works at a high school wellness center. Martha Cortes assists us as a floating instructor supporting community outings and classroom lessons.

Independence Network students and team with new van



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Walk by the ESL classes to see students learning and laughing together.

The teachers are in the process of teaching Culture Sharing (Textbook Ventures Unit 1, EL Civics 11.5). This unit is particularly interesting as we learn more about our student's cultures.

All ESL classes are almost full and some classes have waiting lists. New student placement testing is once a week, 18 students per placement. All placement testing groups are full until the end of 2021 and we have started a waiting list for 2022.

We have added Laura Gerlach, Saila Naher, Maged Saeed, Tomas Montes, and Sikeza Fowlks to our collaborative team of ESL Instructors. We are very excited to have all their expertise with us.

The teachers are looking forward to Professional Development at the Fall CATESOL conference in late October and early November. CATESOL is a professional organization serving teachers of English to speakers of other languages.



CALWORKS PROGRAM

If you meet certain eligibility requirements, you may qualify for CalWORKs assistance. CalWORKs provides qualified families with benefits including cash aid, childcare, transportation and educational cost reimbursement. For more information or to apply, visit [CalWORKS](#) or the County of [Santa Clara Social Services Agency](#).

Already a CalWORKs participant? Santa Clara Adult Education CalWORKs Representative will help and partner with you while you attend classes at our adult school. You can schedule an appointment with our CalWORKs Site Representative by phone, text or email:

Gilbert Seegmiller, SCAE CalWORKS Site Representative

Mobile number: 408-780-8492

Email: gilbert.seegmiller@mvla.net

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (HSD)

Welcome Katie Bennett, our new counselor. You can read all about Katie's experience in the above section on new staff members.

Exciting things are happening in the High School Diploma Program. It's only the end of September, and we are already celebrating five 2021-22 graduates! One of our graduates, Deja Vigil, has enrolled in a Cosmetology school, another has enrolled in our Medical Assisting Programs and the other three are ready to use their high school diploma to get better jobs.

Way to go grads!

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (HSE)

The HSE program is starting a new intake and orientation process. All students now meet with Mint Pasakdee, the Transition Specialist, to get an overview of the program and develop a basic learning plan.

Intake and Orientation will start this week.

Location: Room B.24

Schedule: Tuesday 6:00pm-7:00pm and Wednesday 9:00am-10:00am

Contact Mint at spasakdee@scusd.net or call (408) 423-3547

We are preparing to begin on-campus HiSET Testing in November. More details coming soon!

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Family Resource Center has regular **monthly food distribution dates** at the Wilson-Ed Options campus from 1pm - 4pm. Here are the monthly scheduled dates:

- October 5, 2021
- November 2, 2021
- December 14, 2021
- January 18, 2022
- February 1, 2022
- March 1, 2022
- April 5, 2022
- May 10, 2022
- May 24, 2022

Please contact the Family Resource Center with any questions at (408) 423-3541.

New Staff Members



Katie Bennett

Counselor

Email: kbennett@scusd.net

Phone: (408) 423-3633

For over fourteen years, I have worked in public education, ranging from Kindergarten all the way to community college as a counselor, resource specialist, and coordinator. For four years, I was a community college counselor, working at various community colleges in the bay area as an adjunct counselor, including West Valley, Gavilan and Mission College. I became passionate about Career Technical Education as the Career Programs Counselor at West Valley College to where I eventually was the Lead Counselor at Silicon Valley CTE (SVCTE). Up until now, I was the College and Career Readiness (CTE) Coordinator for five years at Campbell Union High School District. I believe there is a path for every student, and it is our job as counselors to help navigate the system for students to find this path to eventual success. I am excited to be returning to counseling full-time, doing just that - supporting students in alternative programs to find their true path towards success.

When I'm not at work, I'm trying out a new fitness routine. Pre-covid, I was using my recent group fitness instructor certificate, substitute teaching exercise classes for my local fitness facility. More importantly, I have 2.5 children, Tyler (12), Emma (9), and Buster (3) who keep me extremely busy at home. Our family loves to eat, laugh, play sports, and spend quality time with friends and family. Thanks!

Greetings Santa Clara Adult Ed family! My name is Laura Gerlach, and I'm joining the SCAE family as an ESL and Enrichment teacher. I currently teach ESL-2 (evenings only), and Beginning Piano 1A on Friday mornings. Teaching is "where my heart is" according to my husband; I agree.

When I'm not teaching, you can find me working with our small business, enjoying time outside and Zooming with family and friends for a bi-monthly game night. I'm passionate about dogs, music, reading, and humor! I believe that each person has a great gift to share with the world.

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." -Margaret Fuller



Laura Gerlach,

ESL Instructor

Email: lgerlach@scusd.net



Saila Naher

ESL Instructor

Email: snaher@scusd.net

Greetings! I am a new teacher at Santa Clara Adult Ed. My name is Saila Naher, and I currently teach ESL Level 1 & 2 in the mornings. I'm a passionate ESL teacher with experience working with students from diverse cultural, ethnic, and academic backgrounds. When I'm not teaching, I work in the garden, watch documentaries on nature and different countries and cultures. I'm interested in learning about different cultures and languages, especially how culture and language shape the way we think. I believe people are born with unique talent, and a teacher can provide the right tools to help them see their true potential.

Hello! My name is Sikeza Fowlks (Sick-eh-zah Folks), and I'm looking forward to my first year with Santa Clara Adult Education. I have had over a year's worth of teaching experiences in ESL and Special Education classes, and I love the connections I get to make with students as they grow in their academic pursuits. As excited as I am to get to know everyone, there may be a few things you would like to know about me! To start, I have lived in San Jose all my life. As a first generation college student I received my bachelor's degree in 2019 from UC Santa Cruz in Cognitive Science with a focus in Linguistics, and received my Preliminary Education Specialist Credential in Moderate to Severe Disabilities earlier this year. Understanding culture is important to me, as I come from a biracial and bicultural background. On the same note, my family is very important to me, and I come from a close family of five, where I am the eldest of two younger siblings. I am looking forward to having an opportunity to learn about the things that matter most to the students so I can help them reach their personal educational goals. When I have the opportunity to, I love to hike, crochet, and play video games. I'm always happy to learn something new, and happy to make new connections. I'm delighted to meet everyone and help make this a great year!



Sikeza Fowlks

ESL Instructor



My name is Maged. I came from Aden, Yemen in 2015. I am married and I have 3 sons. I love teaching English, soccer, hiking, biking, camping and enjoying nature as much as I can.

Maged Saeed

ESL Instructor

Email: msaeed@scusd.net

Hello all. My name is Tomas Montes. This is my first year teaching ESL, but 21st year in the teaching profession. I am the youngest child of 2 Santa Clara Unified School District teachers. I was born and raised in Santa Clara, and proudly attended schools in Santa Clara throughout my education. As the child of an immigrant that spoke no English upon his arrival in the U.S. I understand and value the critical importance of language acquisition. ESL is a subject matter I instruct with passion and vigor. The privilege of such a responsibility I approach with humility and gravity. I look forward to the opportunity to learn, to grow, and to share with each and everyone of you this year.



Tomas Montes

ESL Instructor

Email: tmontes@scusd.net



I currently maintain a home in Yuma, Arizona but consider Denver, Colorado home because it is where I lived and grew, until I graduated from the University of Southern Colorado, married, entered the U.S.M.C to begin my life's journey. Now the journey finds me as a father of four adult children, five grandchildren and widowed. Professionally, I am a professional educator with over 30 years serving in the role of school district psychologist, educational psychologist, middle and secondary Principal, District Alternative Education administrator as well. Hobbies include photography both landscape and astrophotography, occasional flyfishing, and biking.

Will Williams

Disabilities Specialist

Email: willard.williams@sbcae.org

Phone: (909) 561-2209



Truly Midkiff assists in the front office welcoming student and supporting supervisors and staff members.

Trully Midkiff

Clerical Assistant

Email: tmidkiff@scusd.net

Phone: 408-423-3517

Martha Cortes assists Independence Network (IN) as a floating instructor supporting community outings and classroom lessons.

Martha Cortes

Independence Network Instructor

Email: fcortes@scusd.net



Bart Cortez is the new Pool Maintenance/Custodian, he will be assisting the morning custodian team. He will in on campus Tuesday - Saturday from 6:30am - 2:30pm.

Bart Cortez

Pool Maintenance/Custodian

Email: bacortez@scusd.net

Heather Goodman will be working as our wellness instructor. She has many years of experience teaching yoga and meditation and she also works at a high school wellness center

Heather Goodman

Independence Network Instructor

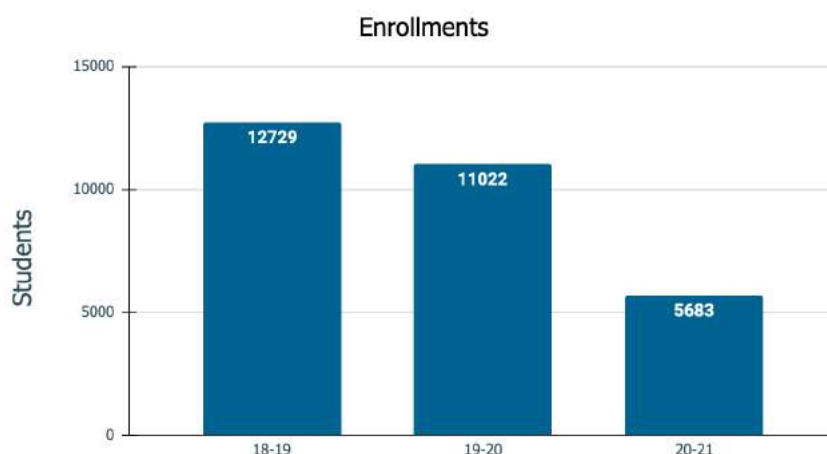


WASC Accreditation Process, Spring, 2021

Santa Clara Adult Education is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The accreditation process is based on a 6 year cycle, and culminates with a 3-day visit to the school by a team of educational professionals. The visit is scheduled for March 28, 29, and 30, 2022.

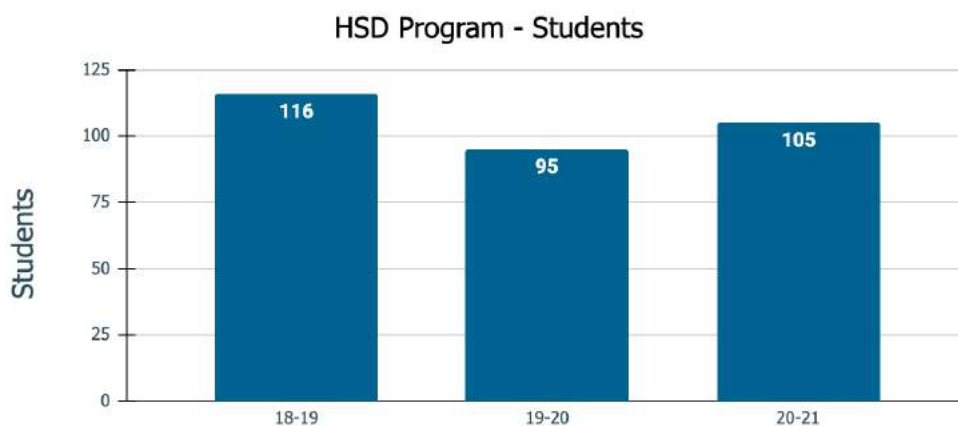
The WASC process affords us the opportunity to examine our community and student population in a more in-depth manner.

Staff is examining demographics including enrollment numbers, gender, ages, ethnicity, highest educational level, and labor force status to identify gaps in services, and improve program offerings.



Source: SCAE ASAP data base

While we have seen declining enrollment because of COVID and an overall decrease in enrollment in some programs, there have been new areas to celebrate. The number of students enrolled in the High School Diploma Program increased in 20-21 over 19-20, suggesting that offering online instruction is a successful way for students to participate. Even as programs come back to campus, the data shows us the importance of continuing to offer online instruction for the students that need it.



Source: SCAE ASAP data base

Please take a look at the full data sets [here](#). Questions?

Email or call Christine Berdiansky, Program Administrator at cberdiansky@scusd.net, or (408) 423-3507.

DID YOU KNOW?

FREE ONLINE YOGA CLASSES FOR ALL SCUSD STAFF



Vinyasa Flow Yoga

Time: Thursdays 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Schedule: September 2, 2021 to December 16, 2021

No Class: November 25, 2021

Yoga Instructor: Pilar Svendsen

Pilar is a Social Studies teacher at SCHS. She received her 200 hour yoga certification with Breathe For Change in May 2020 with a SEL Wellness Champion Certificate.

The Breathe For Change program specifically emphasizes bringing yoga into school systems and focuses on trauma informed practices, social justice, and differentiation for both students and adults.

Register

[Fall Yoga For SCUSD Staff](#)

For questions contact Gaby Corrales, Adult Ed. Secretary at gcorrales@scusd.net or 408-423-3502

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

*Have a special skill you want to
share with the community?*

*We have exciting job opportunities
in a variety of programs!*

For more information, please
contact Gaby Corrales, School Secretary, at (408) 423-3502
or email at gcorrales@scusd.net.



Updates



Staff and Student Testing:

Pooled testing day for staff and students will continue to be on Wednesdays 8am - 2pm. Come to the front office at 1:00pm if you cannot make your scheduled time.

For COVID testing schedule, please refer to Carrie Casto, Principal's email updates. Questions contact Gaby Corrales, Secretary at gcorrales@scusd.net or at 408-423-3510.

Evening staff and Tuesday PM teachers: We will test on Tuesday evenings in the front office, see Maikhanh Le.

Disclaimer: Per Santa Clara County Public Health Department, if an individual is COVID-positive in the last 3 months, they do not test.

Staff members visit the SCAE website section for [staff](#) for easy access to fast forms and staff resource.

Office Hours Starting Fall

Monday 8:00am - 4:00pm

Wednesday - Thursday 8:00am - 7:00pm

Friday 8:00am - 1:00pm

Alarms On:

This is reminder that the alarms are on for the holidays in the calendar of events. Please plan accordingly. Special hours are also listed in the weekly update.

Facility Health Check QR Codes

[Staff Check-In](#) [Visitor Check-In](#)

Principal Weekly Updates

[Adult School Weekly Updates](#)

Social Media - Follow SCAE

[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Next Door](#)

For Frequent Updates Visit

[Santa Clara Adult Ed](#)

Calendar of Events

- **October 29, 30, and November 5, 6** - CATESOL Conference
- **November 11, 2021** - District Holiday, No Classes, Campus Closed and Alarmed
- **November 15, 2021** - Spring Class Registration Begins
- **November 25-26, 2021** - Thanksgiving
- **December 20 - 31, 2021** - No Classes
- **December 23, 24, 30, and 31, 2021** - Holiday
- **January 4, 2022** - First of day of spring classes
- **January 17, 2022** - Holiday