



## Alternative Education

Sonoma County  
Office of Education

Sonoma County Office of Education  
Alternative Education Programs  
5340 Skylane Boulevard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-8246  
(707) 524-2876 Fax (707) 524-2889

August 2, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian & Student:

We hope this finds you and your family well. We are very excited to be welcoming students back to campus for the 2023-24 school year!

The first day of the 2023-2024 school year is Thursday, August 17, 2023. We look forward to serving your educational needs by:

- **Helping you understand the importance of school attendance**
- **Developing and/or maintaining academic skills**
- **Providing you with social-emotional support**
- **Preparing you to meet your criteria for return to district school**
- **Working with you on completing requirements for your high school diploma**

School hours are 8:30 am to 3:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursdays will still be a minimum day and hours will be 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. **Please note: school will be dismissed at 12:30 the first two days of school – August 17 and 18.**

Our staff is committed to providing you with the support you need to be successful in meeting your educational goals but we need your help. Being in school, on time, and dress-code appropriate every day greatly increases your chances of being successful – we ask for your commitment to maintain excellent attendance habits if you already have them, and to improve your attendance if it is a challenge for you.

Our teaching assignments remain the same this year – Ms. Meri (Luscombe) is the teacher at Headwaters and Mr. Gassaway, Mr. Maloney and Mr. Valfer will be returning to Amarosa. We also welcome two new administrators to our program – Ms. Scardina at Headwaters and Ms. Progulske, joining us at Amarosa.

We start the year with a renewed commitment to support students in being successful in school and the community. We will continue to provide academic and social-emotional/mental health counseling and other support services which include restorative dialogue, life skills, career education and parenting classes. We work hard to provide a supportive, relevant and engaging school experience for students. Parents, we hope that you will join us as partners in your child's education – we welcome your input and need your support!

Students, we will provide you with new binders and basic school supplies and ask that you to come to school prepared and ready to learn! Please remember our dress code – shirts must be plain black, white or gray. Sweatshirts or jackets must also be plain black, white or gray. Parents – please assist us by ensuring your child is appropriately dressed before they leave for school each day. **Students - please plan your wardrobe now – we will be enforcing the dress code!** To help you get off to a good start, we are providing each student with a

\$25 back-to-school Target gift card, which can be picked up at the school sites on Friday August 11 between the hours of 8:00 and 2:00. We are also asking that families pick up a COVID test kit when they pick up the gift card on August 11th. We are asking all students to COVID test either on the evening of August 16<sup>th</sup> (the night before school starts) or the morning of August 17<sup>th</sup> (the first day of school). If you test positive, or if you have any questions about your test results, please keep your child home and contact the school office (Amarosa 522-3322 or Headwaters 763-0690) for further instructions.

Sonoma County Transit will again be running a line (Route 42) directly to Amarosa Academy and public transit is also still available to students at Headwaters Academy. Please contact the transit offices directly for additional information about bus schedules. The transit companies have received special funding that allows all students to ride free on all systems (Sonoma County Transit, SR City Bus and Petaluma Transit). Students may be asked to show a school ID – we will be making student IDs for students that don't have them the first two days of school.

All staff will be on site at Amarosa and Headwaters on August 16<sup>th</sup> – please feel free to call on that day if you would like to speak to site staff.

We will continue to utilize a more digital platform in our program in terms of communication with parents. Please assist us by watching your email account for emails from us and respond promptly when information is requested. We will also utilize our [webpage](#) to push out important information and updates.

**It is important that you complete the necessary back-to-school forms prior to the first day of school. Please complete them online by clicking [here](#).**

If you do not plan to return to our program, please contact our main office immediately at (707) 524-2876 to let us know where you are enrolled in school.

We start this year looking forward to reconnecting with our students and families and reimagining how we can provide the best educational experience for you. We are committed to working together with our families to ensure student success and we start the year embracing the opportunity to discover new ways of learning and thriving.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email at [gioakimedes@scoe.org](mailto:gioakimedes@scoe.org) or phone at (707) 522-3322 ext. 4102 if you have any questions or concerns at this time.

Stay safe and be well,

Georgia Ioakimedes, Senior Director

Angela Scardina, Director

Jessica Progulske, Principal