



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, 2021

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 full-time, in-person instruction this year! We will continue to take great measures to keep students and staff safe. Many of the safety measures that were in place last year will continue this year, including hand-washing, enhanced cleaning schedules, and masking for students and staff (while indoors). Medical and educational experts agree that schools are the best and healthiest places for students to learn and succeed, when the right precautions are taken.

The first day of the 2021-2022 school year is Thursday, August 12, 2021. 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 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**

Regular school hours are from 8:00 am to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursdays continue to be a minimum day, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. **Please note: school will be dismissed at 12:00 the first 2 days – August 12, and 13.**

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 team remains the same – Mr. Dimock is at Headwaters and Mr. Valfer, Mr. Gassaway and Ms. (Meri) Luscombe will be 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 counseling and other support services which include restorative dialogue, community service, 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!

Students, we will provide you with new binders and basic school supplies and we 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!**

We are told that Sonoma County Transit will again be running a line (Route 42) directly to Amarosa Academy and public transit is still available to students at Headwaters Academy. Please contact the transit offices directly for additional information about bus schedules. Families should also know that all students in Santa Rosa can now ride for FREE on any Santa Rosa City Bus, through December. Students in grades 9-12 will be asked to show a student ID as they board the bus. We will be issuing student IDs the first week of school.

Staff will be on site at Amarosa and Headwaters on August 11th – please feel free to call on that day if you would like to speak to site staff. (Amarosa 522-3322, Headwaters 763-0690).

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 responding 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, including the online meal application. 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.

Thank you again for your patience and flexibility during distance and hybrid learning. We start this year looking forward to reconnecting with our students and families, rejuvenating after all the challenges of the pandemic and reimagining how we can provide the best educational experience for our students and families. We are committed to working together with our families to ensure student success and we start the year embracing the opportunities to discover new ways of learning and thriving.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email at 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, Director

Cliff Schlueter, Administrator