

Academy of Personalized Learning,

A Charter School

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www.ourapl.org



August Apple News



August 7, 2013

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August events

- ✓ School Starts!
- ✓ Whiskeytown Kayak Tours



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Greetings! The 2013-14 school year will begin on Monday, **August 19**, with onsite classes commencing Tuesday, **August 20**. We hope that all of our students and families have had a great summer and are excited to begin the school year. As we are always striving to improve the programs that we offer, we would like to share some of what is being implemented this year. The class schedules and curricula have been developed to facilitate the State's newly adopted Common Core Standards. The study of Language Arts and History, as well as Math and Science, have been combined for the onsite core classes for most grade levels. This melding of the disciplines is intended to provide greater relevance, meaning, and depth to what students will be learning. In addition to the core class offerings, there continues to be a diverse selection of electives/enrichment classes to support student learning as well as opportunities for tutoring assistance. We have continued to develop the school-wide writing program to improve student writing, with prompts and rubrics that will assist parents in working with their students. Our RTI (Response to Intervention) program is also expanding, with more resources to assist students who need extra help to develop their basic reading and math skills.

The Academy of Personalized Learning (APL) is a leading provider of innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education curricular programs. STEM education is at the heart of today's high-tech, high-skill global economy and APL has integrated STEM education programs for over five years. With programs like Robotics, LEGO Creative Design, Environmental Education, and Science Ambassadors we engage students in activities, projects, and problem-based learning, which provide hands-on classroom experiences. APL students create, design, build, discover, collaborate and solve problems while applying what they learn in math and science. They're also exposed to STEM fields through professionals from local industries. APL is a NASA Space Place Member. Stay tuned for more information, such as the "Design a Toy" Project, 2nd Annual Science Fair and Engineering Expo, and the Hands On Lab Showcase. When you come to the school, make sure to check out our 12 foot high Space Shuttle Discovery in our lobby area.

As school safety is uppermost in everyone's minds, we have moved forward to improve the safety of our students in several important ways. Students will check in and out of school using their student identification cards, which will have a bar code they will scan as they enter and exit the building. (As a safety precaution, all parents must check in at the front desk for early release of their children.) Parents and volunteers will sign in at the front desk and be given a badge to wear if they want to pass into the interior of the building. Security cameras have been installed to help maintain the safety of everyone on campus. We have installed security doors which can be remotely locked in the event of an emergency. We want our families to know that we take the well-being of your children very seriously and will do everything in our power to keep them safe.

Student attendance is important for success in classes. **If your child is unable to attend site classes, please call the school** with the following information: student's full name, date of absence, and reason for absence. (Students are responsible for making up work when absent from school.) Being on time for classes is also important. The day's lesson often comes at the beginning of class and late arriving students not only disrupt the class, but also miss critical information. So please plan to arrive at school so that your students can be in class and ready to learn on time.

As students have the opportunity to attend classes all day long, we ask parents to send their students with a **cold lunch**. If you bring lunch to your student, please make sure it is here **before** their lunch time and have it labeled with their name. There will be **no microwave ovens** available this year, so please send your children with food that does not require heating, and with the utensils they will need to eat it. And please do not send food in glass containers as they present a safety hazard. The only beverage that students may bring into the building is water in a closed container.

Hopefully, everyone has read the Student/Parent Handbook, but we would like to remind you of several important points that it contains: 1) Computer use at school is for educational purposes only, regardless of whether the computer is personal or belongs to the school. 2) Clothing and language should be appropriate to a school environment. If in doubt, just ask. 3) Site classes are a privilege. Students who fail to conduct themselves appropriately can complete their schoolwork at home. (Find Student/Parent Handbook on website.)

APL endeavors to provide for our students the best learning opportunities, so they can thrive educationally and feel proud of their accomplishments in a safe and secure environment. May this year bring great educational rewards to all!



APL Orientation



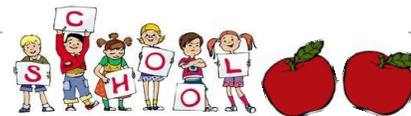
APL is accepting new students for the **2013-14 school year**. Orientation for interested families will be held **Wednesday** evenings at **5 PM** at APL, **2195 Larkspur Lane**. If you have friends or family looking at school options, please consider suggesting us!

Here's some of what we have to offer:

- K-12 program
- WASC accredited
- Curriculum choice
- Independent study
- Home school
- Classes, vendor courses & tutoring
- Flexible scheduling
- Credentialed teachers
- California standards based instruction



School Business



During August and September, all students in grades K-11 will be assessed in language arts and math. Students will be assessed in their core LA and math classes or during their monthly meeting. Some of the tests will use paper and pencil, and some will be on the computer. During the month of September, on all Mondays except 9/2, the computer lab will be available for Scantron testing (grades 3-11) from 9 am-2 pm. Call the office or contact your teacher to schedule an appointment. The detailed information provided by the tests will be useful for showing parents where students have made academic progress and in what specific areas they need to focus.

Parking Lot Etiquette: When dropping off or picking up children, **please park your car if you pull into the parking lot**. Do not double park, block other cars, or create traffic congestion or safety issues. **Elementary children must be accompanied to and from the building**. Middle and high school students may be dropped off on the side streets adjacent to the school. Elementary students will remain inside the building until they are picked up. Middle and High School students may wait in the patio area directly outside the front doors of the building on Tuesdays and Thursdays when supervision is present. **APL is a closed campus**.

Immunizations for kindergarteners should be completed within the first thirty days of enrollment. If you have questions about immunizations, please contact Sherina.

The **Oral Health Assessment Form for 1st grade students in the 2013-14 school year is due by September 13, 2012**. The form is available at APL. If you have questions or can't meet the deadline, contact Sherina.

Tdap booster shot: All students in grades 7-12 are required to have a Tdap booster shot to protect them from whooping cough. Students attending site classes must have this immunization **before August 19**. If you have questions, contact Sherina at 222-9275.

Teaching Assistants: Many classes at APL benefit from the support of a Teaching Assistant (TA), a middle or high school student who can earn grades/credits for this position. Some of the classes whose teachers have requested a TA are: 1st and 6th grade core (any part of the period) as well as Science and Ceramics. Students interested in serving as a TA, please discuss this with your teacher

Student IDs: For an APL student identification card, stop by the school and see Sherina to get your photo taken. For more information, contact Sherina at 222-9275.

Work Permit applications are available at the office. Parents can fill out the request and drop it off at APL or fax it to Sherina at 222-9281.

APL hopes that our students will be good citizens, not only of our school, but also of our nation. To further that goal, we will conduct the flag salute two mornings each week before the academic day begins. Students and family members are invited to participate in the **Pledge of Allegiance** on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** mornings at **7:45 a.m.** in the reception area.



Library News

Destiny Quest is our APL Library system which allows students and parents to browse our library holdings, place holds, create resource lists, and renew materials. The URL is : <https://ourapl.follettdestiny.com/> Click on Academy of Personalized Learning. In the upper left hand corner choose "create account." You will then see a space that states: enter your last name and enter your barcode. The last name will be the student's official last name and the barcode is the student's school ID number that can be found on their student ID card, or can be obtained from your teacher of record or any library staff. After login, you will get a page that

looks like this:



At the top of the page there are several tabs including Quest Home, My Info, Advanced Search and Visual Search. You can search for books and resources by clicking on the Visual Search or the Advanced Search Tabs. You can also type in a book or subject after the "Find," then click on

"Go." If you click on the "My Info" tab at the top of the screen a new window will pop up that gives students/parents the option of viewing a student's current check outs.

Reading Incentive Program: APL will facilitate a reading incentive program for students again this school year. Pick up your reading logs at the APL Library or from your teacher. For each log completed, students win a small prize. For every 10 logs submitted, students will receive a book of their choice through Scholastic, and they will be entered into a drawing for a Barnes & Noble gift card. Ten gift cards will be awarded at the end of the school year.



August Events



On Monday, **August 26 at 9:30 am**, there will be a **Kayak Tour** for APL families at Whiskeytown Lake. Students must be at least 6 years old and know how to swim. 6-12 year olds need one parent per child, and 13-17 year olds need one parent per 2-3 children. Meet at the **Brandy Creek Parking Lot B**. Barbara Mehr will have parking passes if you need one. Wear a t-shirt, shoes that will stay on your feet (no flip flops), and

clothes that can get wet. Bring water to drink. All equipment (including life jackets, a safety talk, and a guided tour) is provided. Please register at **ourapl.org** by **Friday, August 9**. **Please include names and ages of each boater. The Park Service requires names and ages of students and names of adults who will be boating.** For more information, contact Barbara Mehr, (530) 472-1239 or bmehr@ourapl.org.

Field Trip Registration: Families, if you find that you are unable to attend a field trip for which you have registered, please call or email **Barbara Mehr**, our field trip coordinator, to let her know. There are often other families on the waitlist who would love to attend the event (instead of leaving empty seats). Barbara's contact info is: (530) 472-1239 or bmehr@ourapl.org. Thanks!



College Corner



When should families start thinking about whether their students should attend college? Sadly, many students and families don't begin this conversation until the students are in their senior year of high school. That puts a lot of pressure on everyone and leaves some students unprepared for college application, acceptance and success.

Wouldn't it be better to start discussing and planning for college when students begin their educational journey? Each successive year in school builds upon the knowledge gained in the previous year. Reading comprehension and critical thinking skills, as well as math skills, are developed year by year. Students learn to count, then to add and subtract, and next thing you know they are solving complex equations. It takes twelve years of study to prepare most students for college level coursework.

As students go through their high school years, they want to make certain they are taking the courses necessary to gain college admission, especially if they have their sights on a four year university. Students should think about their interests, what they would be good at, and investigate various programs and schools. Don't wait until senior year. Start the conversation this year, and make sure your students are applying themselves to their studies and preparing for a lifetime of success, regardless of their eventual educational or career path.

Community College: The California Community College System is the largest system of higher education in the world serving 2.6 million students on 110 college campuses throughout California. Community colleges offer a smooth transition to a four-year institution. There are five ways to be eligible to attend a community college:

- Be a high school graduate, or
- Be eighteen years of age, or
- Gain special admission as a "gifted" 10th grade student or earlier in an enrichment program not offered in your school's curriculum. This requires a recommendation of your principal or counselor, parental approval, a minimum GPA of 3.0, and passing English and reading placement tests, or
- Gain admission as a high school junior or senior to take transfer-level college courses. To qualify you must be recommended by your principal or counselor, have parental approval, a minimum GPA of 2.5, and pass English or reading placement tests, or
- Gain admission as a high school junior or senior to take occupationally-oriented or activity courses. To qualify you must be recommended by your principal or counselor, have parental approval, a minimum GPA of 2.0, and pass English and reading placement tests.

PSAT: The PSAT will be administered at APL on Wednesday, **October 16**, 8:00 am–12:30 pm. Students must register with Sherina by **September 25**. The cost is \$14. There are a limited number of fee waivers for qualified students.

SAT: The first administration of the SAT will be at **Enterprise High School** on **October 5**. The regular registration deadline is **September 6**. Register at www.sat.org/register. The cost is \$51.

College OPTIONS provides free programs and services to strengthen the college-going culture in Shasta, Siskiyou and Tehama counties, and to help students of all ages and their families make informed decisions about post-high school educational opportunities. They are located on the Market Street Promenade opposite the Shasta College University Center. (www.collegeoptions.org or 530-245-1845)

QuestBridge National College Match program pairs outstanding low-income high school seniors with admission and full four-year scholarships to some of the nation's leading colleges. College Match scholarships cover the full cost of tuition, room, and board, worth approximately \$220,000. QuestBridge invites applications from high school seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence and come from households earning less than \$60,000 annually for a typical family of four. The free online application is due September 27, 2013. www.questbridge.org

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 **Tutoring**   **Meetings**  **Sports Teams** 

Students in need of tutoring assistance in English and math have the opportunity to attend **Directed Study Halls** to receive help with their assignments. Please see the Fall Semester Schedules for these class days and times. Students must bring assignments with them to work on.

Math Tutoring with Mr. Nason will be offered as follows:

Tuesdays: 4:15-5:00 pm at APL

Wednesdays: 1:00-3:15 pm at APL

Thursdays: 4:15-5:00 pm at APL

Fridays: 1:00-3:15 pm at APL

APL teacher Vanessa Burger is available for tutoring at the **Burney Library from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Tuesdays. Please call ahead to arrange an appointment with her at 276-7936.**

Site classes begin on the second day of school, Tuesday, **August 20**. Please have your students bring their ID card and a copy of their schedule to help them navigate their first day.

The **APL Board Meetings** for this school year are the **3rd Thursday** of each month at **5:15 pm**, with the next meeting on **August 15**. The public is invited to attend.

The purpose of **APL's Advisory Council** is to gather input from the vested members of our school community (evenly weighted between staff and families) and use that information to improve our school. This includes addressing concerns of the families/staff and creating needed school policies to present to our Board of Directors.

Advisory Council meetings are the **1st Wednesday** of each month at **3:30 pm**, with the next meetings on **August 14** and **September 4, 2013**. The Council is in need of a high school student and the parent of an elementary student. If you are interested in serving on the Council, please contact lweidenkeller@ourapl.org.

"When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts." ~Dalai Lama

American Christian Academy has invited our high school students to participate on their sports teams. Depending upon interest, coaches, and venues, ACA may sponsor boys' and girls' basketball, boys' baseball, girls' volleyball (contact ASAP as they are getting started), and boys' and girls' cross country and track. For information about ACA athletic opportunities, please contact athletic director Greg Rust at 547-3804.

Vendor Courses

APL will continue to provide vendor courses for our students. Attendance in VEP classes is important so please call vendors if your child will be absent from their class. If a student misses more than one vendor class per month (ie. Attendance is less than 80% for the month), the student will lose the privilege of attending VEP classes for the remainder of the school year. Please contact your PLT to discuss vendor courses for your student.

