



# Family Partnership Charter School

Bringing the Best Together For Student Success

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2



Dear Family Partnership Families,

On behalf of the entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to this new school year!

We hope you enjoyed a summer filled with recreation and relaxation providing memorable experiences shared with family and friends. The first days of school are filled with excitement and anticipation as students and staff members swap stories about their summer experiences, old friendships are rekindled and new ones are made. We are delighted to introduce some new additions to our dedicated staff -

- Tawny Lindahl, teacher – Orcutt and Solvang
- Nancy Rellas, instructional aid – SM/ BUSD
- Mandy Palmquist, resource specialist – San Luis Obispo
- Kelsey Ricks, teacher – San Luis Obispo
- Semu Torres, coordinator/teacher – Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo

Personally, I am excited and inspired by assuming a new position at Family Partnership as the Interim Executive Director. Last year, I served as the Classified Coordinator/Registrar/Executive Assistant and learned much about the educational design, philosophy, goals, and mission of Family Partnership Charter School. Prior to my partnership with FPCS, I was the advocate, co-founder, and school services director of a California charter school and served as its School Manager - later as School Services Director. We wish our former Director, Dr. Miguel Gonzales, much success in his new position as Professor at University Nevada Las Vegas.

Our school year has commenced with parent conferences and orientation, preparation of personalized learning contracts and master agreements for each student, curriculum introduction, and the ever-present paperwork. Each learning center has a distinctive way for starting the year. Your child's learning center will be providing you with more detailed information. At Family Partnership, we collaborate with

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## Upcoming Events/Calendar

### Sept 4

Labor Day Holiday

### Sept 22

End of Learning Period 1 (LP1)  
– signed Learning Logs &  
student work samples due to  
teachers.

### Sept 26

Governance Council Meeting



*Santa Maria Montessori students  
observing the eclipse.*

### Important Contact Numbers

Administrative Office:  
(805) 348-3333

Registrar:  
(805) 348-3333, ext. 1025

Fax: (805) 348-3334

you – the parents and guardians - in the education of your children. We encourage you to participate on our Parent Advisory and or Science Fair Committee or consider membership on our Governance Council. We welcome your positive input, ideas, and enthusiasm!

We look forward to a productive partnership that ensures your children can achieve their goals and reach their highest potential.

Dream BIG!

Kathy Grbac, Interim Executive Director and all the staff of Family Partnership Charter School



### Student Spotlight – Hannah Sloan,

*Excerpts from her 2016-2017 Valedictorian Speech -*

Hello fellow classmates, faculty, friends, and family. Today is finally here, graduation day, with 13 years of schooling behind us. Life beyond high school is no longer a distant reality but a step into tomorrow.

Going to Family Partnership has impacted my life in many different ways. This is because this school has been so different than any other, giving us students the opportunity to form our education around our own personal learning styles. For me, Family Partnership gave me the opportunity to excel in my academic studies with their online program which allowed me to double pace the classes so that I could graduate today, a year early. I was also able to attend Cuesta College classes, which allowed me to get both high school and college credit. It was a lot of work but I wouldn't have been able to do it without the guidance of my teacher, Donna Burke, and my family. Thank you guys, for always keeping my best interests in mind and continually encouraging me to do my best in all of my classes.

Embrace each one of your unique gifts and use them in a way that will positively impact the lives of the people around you. Thank you and congratulations to the class of 2017.

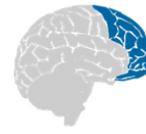
### Universal Design for Learning

**Recognition Networks**  
The "what" of learning



How we gather facts and categorize what we see, hear, and read. Identifying letters, words, or an author's style are recognition tasks.

**Strategic Networks**  
The "how" of learning



Planning and performing tasks. How we organize and express our ideas. Writing an essay or solving a math problem are strategic

**Affective Networks**  
The "why" of learning



How learners get engaged and stay motivated. How they are challenged, excited, or interested. These are affective dimensions.

### From Special Education Director – Donna Andrew

Family Partnership Charter School is proud to serve a rich and diverse population that includes students with a wide variety of special needs. Last year, resource specialists and instructional support staff served over 50 students.

Success for students with special needs may look like the ability to communicate with peers, navigate within a classroom and playground, shoot hoops on the basketball court, manage social interactions, or complete academic tasks independently. While on the surface, these abilities may seem typical, for many of our students these are the very activities that will build skills for success throughout their lives. It takes a dedicated team to personalize education for such a unique population and FPCS is fully vested in meeting the needs of all students.

