

Headin' for **SUCCESS!**

SUCCESS! Learning Center

presents

THE SPOT

May 15, 2009

No. 26

Summer Session Programs

Mr. Gaare Leads Elementary Class

Mr. Mark Gaare, credentialed elementary teacher and current head of the After-School 3rd-6th grade class, will teach the elementary classroom at the 2009 Summer Session. Students enjoy his energy, his knowledge, and his creative approach.

Mr. Gaare will teach grades 3-6 for both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. classes. As needed, students will explore a wide-ranging enrichment program, review previous classroom material, and prepare for next year. Most elementary students work on both math and language arts, but a single emphasis is possible.

Learners focusing on language arts will write a composition each day, practice vocabulary and grammar, give regular oral reports, and develop better reading comprehension in both fiction and research. The math module includes work on individual weaknesses in concepts and computation, developing logic and analysis, and plenty of practice with those troublesome word problems.

Now Enrolling

Seven-Week Summer Session

June 22-August 6, 2009

Classes Meet Monday through Thursday

Applications for our seven-week Summer Session are now being accepted. Although our overhead expenses continue to rise steadily, we have worked very hard to keep our class fees as low as possible!

Of course, at these low rates it is not possible for us to offer any discount for days missed. If you know your family vacation plans in advance, we will try to schedule your student(s) for make-up days in another class.

Please note that classes meet four days per week, Monday through Thursday (no Friday classes), for a total of 63 hours of instruction over the seven-week session. Our class times are 8:00-10:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., and 1:30-3:30 p.m. We offer a discount for students taking multiple classes or for brothers and sisters enrolled in the same session.

Each year several Learning Center classes fill completely before mid-June. Our individualized curriculum and extremely low student-teacher ratio (one teacher or teacher aide for every four students) limit the number of spaces available in our learning groups.

Registration information is on page 2. Please call the Director for more information or to schedule an appointment for enrollment.

Success! Learning Center

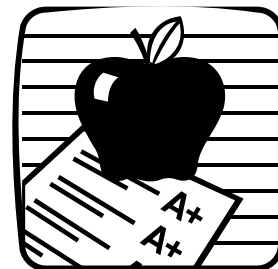
a non-profit educational and tutoring center

Tutoring, test preparation, and homework assistance for students in grades 3-12

Director: Cliveden Chew Haas
Location: 355 Dixon Road, Milpitas
Phone: (408) 263-9754
E-mail: success@cliveden.com
Website: www.successlearningcenter.org

Summer Session Pre-Registration

Information and registration forms for the 2009 Summer Session are enclosed. Applications are being accepted now. If you would like to register your student, please fill out a 2009-10 Student Application for each student. Do remember to indicate next year's grade level! Return the Application along with the Schedule and Fees sheet showing which classes you'd like and a \$100 minimum deposit (per student) to: Success! Learning Center, P.O. Box 361195, Milpitas CA 95036-1195



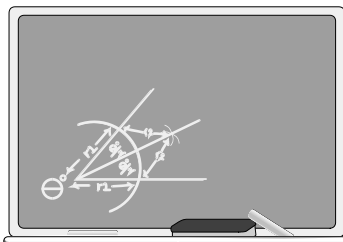
Please remember that After-School tutoring ends June 4th. Our office will be open from 2:00-6:00 p.m. on June 9, 10, and 11 while Mrs. Haas and Mr. Gaare complete the student progress reports and prepare for the summer session. Bring completed application forms to the Learning Center or mail to the address above.

See you this summer!

2009 Top-Ranked Colleges Listing on Website

www.successlearningcenter.org

We've recently updated our Learning Center website to include the 2009 Top-Ranked Colleges in California. (See URL above.)



rankings. We hope that this list will encourage you to investigate some fine California colleges and universities you may not have been aware of.

The information is based on *U.S. News* College Rankings, which classifies colleges into categories (in order to compare schools with similar goals) and then ranks them into four tiers. We present the top-ranked **California** colleges and universities from the four major categories.

Students should gather information on colleges in many ways: talking to parents, high school teachers, and counselors; reading college catalogs, viewbooks, and Web sites; scheduling appointments with college representatives; and visiting campuses to form first-hand impressions.

Please remember that rankings are only *one* tool to help you select and compare schools.

They are, by their very nature, somewhat subjective, and excellent schools will be found in all four "tiers" of the

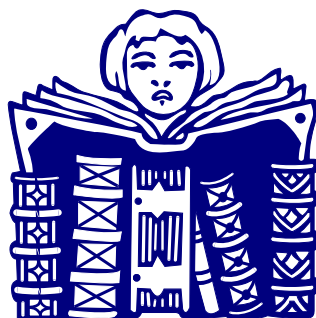
And remember, a private liberal arts college may be far cheaper than a public university once financial assistance and merit scholarships are factored in! Because private schools work to increase their endowment funds every year, they often have far more money available to help their students than the public universities, which depend mainly on government subsidies.



A Handful of Useful Sites for Teaching Children

<http://www.educationworld.com/awards/>

Education World (see URL above) bills itself as “The Educator’s Best Friend” and that’s a pretty good description. Check them out for math homework help (http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/sites/sites087.shtml), foreign language support (http://www.educationworld.com/foreign_lang/, etc., etc.



by a certified speech and language pathologist and an early childhood reading teacher.

Thinkfinity Literacy Network

<http://literacynetwork.verizon.org/tln/>

Thinkfinity Literacy Network, provided by the Verizon Foundation, offers free online literacy resources for teachers, parents, adult learners, tutors, and volunteers. This is a rich resource for literacy development and lifelong learning. The teach section offers almost fifty free online courses to guide educators, program managers, students, and volunteers in the “best literacy instruction and lifelong learning habits.”

Education World is aimed at teachers, parents, and students, and there’s lots here for everyone. Our very favorite are the Site Reviews, which discuss top-notch student and teacher websites on the internet each month. You can find the latest lists at the Site Review Awards URL above.

Here are a few recent favorites. Check them out and get smarter!

Reading Resource

<http://www.readingresource.net>

Reading Resource.net offers free resources and materials for teachers and parents or anyone interested in teaching reading to children with dyslexia and other learning difficulties. The site was developed

National Science Foundation

<http://www.nsf.gov/news/classroom/>

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Classroom Resources is a collection of lessons and Web resources for classroom teachers, students, and their families. Most are drawn from the National Science Digital Library, which offers some of the best resources the Web has to offer.

And lots, lots more—Explore!

Middle School and High School Summer Classes

As usual, middle school and high school students this summer will be taught by Mrs. Haas. Students can focus on writing, literature, preparation for college tests, math, science, and other subjects. Summer is an excellent opportunity to upgrade reading, writing, and study skills to prepare for higher level classes or to practice reading, writing, vocabulary, word problems, and test-taking skills for PSAT and SAT examinations. Please let us know if you have special needs!

Free Shakespeare Performances

Stimulate your child's mind, increase vocabulary and reading comprehension, and have a great time at some of the free Shakespeare performances offered in area parks this summer. Students need to experience directly, not just read about, history, culture, and science in order to move beyond rote learning. We all know the many, many excellent museums in our area. (Surely you've taken your students to the Rosicrucian Museum to walk through an Egyptian tomb and enjoy grimacing over that very authentic mummy!)

The best students and the most successful in school are those who can link what they read in books with what they've actually seen, touched, heard, and felt at parks, events, historical sites, performances, etc. Thus, middle school students reading *Dragonwings* who have also visited historic sites in Chinatown and San Francisco's famous Octagon House (both featured in the book) have a clear advantage over those simply reading without real understanding of the setting.

Every high school student studies Shakespeare. Most college preparatory classes will read a Shakespeare play each year. Many students struggle with the vocabulary and language and miss all the humor when simply reading a play. They just don't "get it" when staring at the words.

Seeing a play in live performance, however, is completely different—exciting, humorous, and fascinating. Language and image flow easily into the mind and everyone enjoys laughing at the many jokes enlivening even the darkest tragedies. You can pay as much as \$75 or \$100 to see a top-level dramatic company put on Shakespeare in a professional theater. Head out for a park and it's free! So, pack up a picnic, beach chairs and a blanket, and all the kids, and enjoy a Shakespeare play as it was originally performed—in the open air!

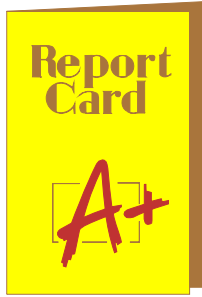
San Francisco Shakespeare Festival performs "Comedy of Errors" (lost twins, lots of mistaken identities and enough slapstick to qualify for prime time! plenty of goofiness and even a bit of romance!) in Pleasanton, Cupertino, and San Francisco. Visit their website for details on free shows: <http://www.sfshakes.org/park/index.html>



Reasonably priced tickets in outdoor settings (especially previews, seniors, students) are available for many professional performances. Summer is the time to enjoy Shakespeare (and other plays) outside in amphitheatres under the stars. Check out the California Shakespeare Theatre in Orinda (www.calshakes.org), the Shady Shakespeare Theatre Company in Sanborn-Skyline Park (www.shadyshakes.org), and Shakespeare Santa Cruz under the redwoods on the UC Santa Cruz campus (www.shakespeareasantacruz.org)

Look for local productions, too. Go and enjoy a play! Have fun and get a bit smarter!





What is an . . .

INDIVIDUALIZED CURRICULUM?

An Individualized Curriculum is a course of study designed specifically for each individual student. In a typical large-class setting with 20–35 pupils, students are forced to work at the pace and intensity of the majority of the group. One student may find the class too slow and rather superficial, another might find the same course too rapid and struggle to master material not fully understood.

Students at Success! Learning Center work in very small groups (usually 2–4 students) with a teacher or teacher aide. Because the instructor has only a few students to monitor, there is plenty of time for personal attention and encouragement. Students receive one-on-one tutoring as needed and progress at their own pace, moving from one level to the next as they are ready.

Students in each group work individually on their own curriculum, which is adjusted as necessary during the course. Thus one student may be working on

language arts, another on advanced math concepts, and a third on improving language arts skills.

During the registration process, parents and students discuss their goals for the class. Once the study subjects and any particular needs have been identified, students may complete a series of placement tests to identify their specific strengths and weaknesses.

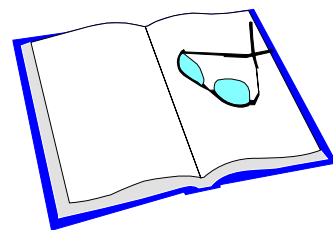
The Director then prepares an individual plan of study for each student, based on his or her particular needs, learning styles, and interests. She works closely with teachers and aides to ensure that the course of study is successful and to make any necessary adjustments during the session.

Parents and students are an important component of any successful study plan, and their input is welcomed throughout the class.

At the end of the session, we prepare a detailed Final Report summarizing the progress achieved by each student and discussing any other pertinent material.

LEARNING CENTER STAFF

Cliveden Chew Haas, M.A., the Learning Center Director, is credentialed to teach academic high school subjects. Originally studying science as a pre-med major, she completed degrees in English Literature, with additional training in English as a Second Language and learning disabilities. Cliveden brings extensive experience in various areas of education and a contagious enthusiasm for learning.



Mark Gaare is a credentialed elementary teacher with experience in language arts, math, social studies, science, and other topics. Students enjoy his active and supportive teaching style.

Our teaching aides are extremely successful college and high school students who are also skilled instructors. They enjoy sharing their talents and their knowledge.