



Positive Happenings Forest Lake Area Schools Community Education Adult Basic Education 2014-2015 School Year September, 2015

New Faces, New Year



Pictured, ABE staff:
Sarah Huhnerkoch and Andrea Roles

This school year was exciting for the ABE program, as we welcomed two new staff members to the team. Sarah Huhnerkoch was hired as the new part-time teacher to replace longtime teacher Kathryn Hansen who retired in August 2014. Sarah has a license and background in ESL instruction. She holds a BA in ESL from Hamline University and a Master's of Commerce degree from the University of Sydney. Sarah's past teaching experience includes teaching English to adults in Thailand and Australia. Though learning all the quirks of teaching in ABE has been a big job, Sarah has jumped right in with a warm smile. She has been a great addition to the ABE team. Andrea Roles also joined the team in the new position of Literacy Assistant. ABE and teaching were nothing new for Andrea as she was a site volunteer for many years and has worked as a substitute teacher for the last few years. Andrea holds a BA degree from Augustana College and a Master's degree from Luther Seminary. Andrea's knowledge of ABE has made her an asset to the site. The year went very smoothly with the help and dedication of both Andrea and Sarah!

Destination Graduation

Graduation night is always exciting for the staff and volunteers in ABE. However, June 11th was really worth celebrating! That night, the site saw several of its most recent graduates walk across the stage at the annual Metro North graduation ceremony. Though it's fun to watch all the graduates earn this well-deserved credential, the teachers gave one extra loud cheer when Rachael Spencer's name was called. Rachael first began her journey with Adult Basic Education back in November, 2010. As a young mother, she knew completing her diploma was something she wanted to do before her son started school. Even though Rachael knew she was missing two years' worth of credits, she opted to pursue her diploma, rather than earn a GED. She always said she wanted to tell her son she graduated with a diploma. Rachael spent the next few years in the District's Family Learning Program, which allowed her to complete her credits while her son, and later a daughter, participated in District pre-school. Her years of hard work finally paid off this year, when Rachael could tell her family that she did it. The most proud audience member was her son, Shane. Rachael accomplished her goal just in time to send Shane to kindergarten this fall.... And Rachael... She's off to college!



Community Education - Adult Basic Education

CCRS Content Standards Coming to MN ABE!

The major focus of Adult Basic Education this year has been on content standards. Along with the State's current ACES Transitions Integration Framework, and the Northstar Digital Literacy standards already being focused on in classrooms, the CCRS (Career and College Readiness Standards) have made their way to the State of Minnesota to create a three-pronged approach to instruction. These standards are based on the Common Core standards, and focus on shifts in instruction along with specific standards that need to be covered during lessons. All ABE teachers in the State are currently being asked to become familiar with the standards and determine how to implement them into current instruction with adult students. While Forest Lake ABE has been lucky enough to be included in early implementation talks at the State level, these new requirements will require changes to current teaching routines and materials. The Forest Lake ABE teachers will be participating in training this year that will help them to more thoroughly understand the new requirements and bring those new expectations back to their learners. The year ahead will bring many learning opportunities for both students and teachers.

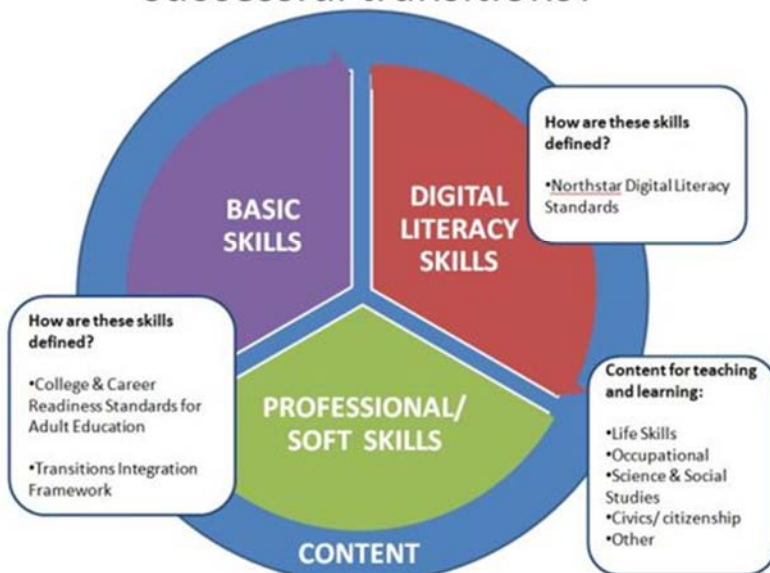


Our Year in Review...

Each year it is exciting to learn about the cultures and backgrounds of our student population. Last year our site welcomed new friends from the following countries:

Bosnia – 1	Japan – 1
Brazil – 1	Iraq – 4
Cambodia - 2	Japan – 1
Cameroon – 1	Laos – 4
China – 2	Latvia - 1
Columbia – 5	Liberia – 2
Costa Rica – 1	Malaysia – 1
Dominican Republic – 1	Mexico – 19
El Salvador – 6	Panama - 1
Germany – 1	Philippines – 1
Guatemala – 1	Puerto Rico - 1
Guyana – 1	Spain - 8
Haiti – 2	Thailand - 2
Honduras – 5	Vietnam - 9

What skills do adult learners need for successful transitions?



During the 2014-2015 school year, our site worked with 221 students and led 12,000 instructional hours. The site had eight learners complete their GED, 18 learners start the process, and had 10 students earn their adult diploma. We are thankful for our 25 volunteers who donated almost 3,000 hours!

If you have questions, would like to refer a student, or are interested in volunteering, please contact Kara Rotramel at 651-982-8302 or krotramel@flaschools.org

Browse all Community Education events and opportunities at the Community Education website:
www.flaschools.org/ce