



# Piedmont Adult School

## Education for Life

Vol. 4, Issue 1  
Fall 2021

Community Classes

High School Diploma Program

Career Technical Education (CTE)



### Welcome back!

Our fall session is well underway, and we are delighted to see many familiar faces – along with many new ones – back in-person at Piedmont Adult School. We continue to offer online classes as well, and are grateful for the flexibility of our instructors and students in making it all work!

What's new with our

### Community Classes

We are finalizing courses for our Spring session, which will run Jan. 3 through June 2, 2022. Registration will open Dec. 6.

New classes this session include:

- Apple/Mac Basics
- iPhone 101
- Discover New iPhone Apps
- Navigating Retirement
- Thai Language
- Meela's Indian Kitchen
- Dim Sum Workshop
- Sushi & Nigiri Workshop



### Instructor Profile: Jean Monnier

Planning that long-postponed trip to France? Or do you just want to sharpen your French skills or learn some new ones?

French classes at all levels are offered at Piedmont Adult School. Classes are taught by Jean Monnier, who has been an instructor for Piedmont Adult School since 2007.

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What's new with our

### High School Diploma Program



### Bright Future for High School Grad

Adjusting to life in a new country and learning a new language, while taking care of two teenagers and a toddler, might seem overwhelming for most. But Maria Jardine decided to take on all this while adding one more task – earning a high school diploma.

Maria grew up in Manaus, Brazil – “home of the forest and the river,” as she fondly describes it. She completed her high school education in Brazil. In the years following, she had two children and worked to support them, so was unable to continue her education.

In Brazil, she met Kolby Jardine, who was originally from California. The two were married, had a son, and decided to move the family to California. They settled in Piedmont and enrolled the older children in Piedmont schools.

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What's new with our

### Career Technical Education (CTE)

Piedmont Adult School offers a free online Google Drive class that provides students with valuable skills applicable to both work and personal uses. Taught by long-time instructor Deborah Brooks, this class provides detailed guidance on how to create, edit and share documents, spreadsheets, forms and slideshows.

## Come See Us

The Piedmont Adult School staff is back in-person in our new offices, located at 760 Magnolia Avenue, on the right side of the entrance ramp. This fall we welcomed Michelle Lucas as our new full-time Administrative Assistant. We are here and ready to serve you!



## Here's who we are:

Shannon Fierro - Director  
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Dan Bonnin - Diploma Program Coordinator  
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Ron Mockel - Community Classes Coordinator  
[Rmockel@piedmont.k12.ca.us](mailto:Rmockel@piedmont.k12.ca.us)

Michelle Lucas - Administrative Assistant  
[MLucas@piedmont.k12.ca.us](mailto:MLucas@piedmont.k12.ca.us)

## Join our team

We are always interested in adding new instructors and new classes. If you or someone you know would like to teach an adult school class in an area of expertise, please contact us!

## Office:

760 Magnolia Ave.  
Piedmont, CA 94611  
(510) 594-2655  
Mon-Thurs. 10am-7pm

## Instructor Profile (cont.)

Jean, a native French speaker, brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to his teaching. He grew up in the Brittany region of France and holds a master's degree in Comparative Literature and a PhD in French literature. He has taught at UC Berkeley, Head Royce and Campolindo high schools.

In addition to teaching, Jean's fascinating career has included stints as a journalist for French National TV, and as an interpreter during the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. He has written multiple papers and books on French involvement in the California Gold Rush and other topics.

"I love teaching at the Adult School because my students are so motivated and excited to learn," says Jean. "Often I can provide them with useful information and travel advice, in addition to language skills," he continues. "We have great conversations about culture, politics, government and the like. The atmosphere is very friendly and social."

## High School Grad (cont.)

While taking her son to high school, Maria saw a flyer for the Piedmont Adult School and realized that she could earn her US high school diploma. "I wanted to learn more about my new home in the United States," says Maria. "I also knew that having a US high school diploma would improve my job opportunities here."

For Maria, getting her US high school degree meant completing classes in US History, Civics, Economics and Algebra. She studied on her own time and met with a teacher regularly to get further instruction and feedback.

It took Maria just one year to complete all the requirements for her degree. With her high school diploma in hand, Maria is considering her next step. She is looking for job opportunities to help support her family, and also considering college.

"I am excited to be on a path to realizing my dream of working in a job that I love and that can help me grow," says Maria.

## Free High School Diploma Program for Any California Resident 18+

Having a high school diploma can lead to better job opportunities, higher wages, college opportunities, and a well-earned sense of accomplishment. Any California resident 18 or over can earn a high school diploma with the Piedmont Adult School.

- **Free:** The program is fully funded by the state of California.
- **Flexible:** Study at your own pace, on your own schedule
- **Friendly:** We want you to succeed! We will check in regularly and help with your progress.
- **Fully Accredited:** Piedmont Adult School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

