



# Springs Charter Schools

## *Homeschool Parent Orientation*

2015-16

# Mission

Springs Charter Schools are parent choice schools where the community is the classroom.

Our mission is to:

- foster the innate curiosity of our students
- empower their parents
- promote optimum learning by collaboratively developing a personalized learning program for each student.

# Philosophy

The educators and participants of Springs Charter Schools (SCS) believe that the best learning occurs when:

- The parent is directly involved in the teaching/learning process.
- Teaching styles are tailored to each individual student's needs.
- One-to-one teaching is the primary arrangement.
- Real life "context-based" learning is emphasized.
- There is enrichment through field trips, apprenticeships, cooperative classes, and appropriate uses of technology.
- Schooling is viewed as one aspect of an education.
- The entire community serves as the school “classroom”.

# SCS Administration

## Board of Directors & Executive Director

Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Ed.D. Superintendent

## Senior Administration

Vivian Price, Assistant Superintendent, Education Personalized Learning

Deborah S. Essel, Assistant Superintendent, Education

Debra Daniel, Assistant Superintendent, Pupil Services

Amy Podratz, Assistant Superintendent, Business and Administrative Operations

Diane Anvari, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Philip Hermsmeyer, Assistant Superintendent, IT and Facilities

## Educational Program Leadership

Academy Program Directors

Homeschool Directors

## Support Departments

Business and Admin • Education Department • IT & Facilities • HR • Homeschool • Academic & Personalized Learning Department • Pupil Services • Special Education

# Vivian Price Assistant Superintendent Education Personalized Learning

Vivian Price oversees the Homeschool Program and its staff.

Vivian served as the English Department Chair for six years and holds a MA in Education with a focus on literacy. Vivian taught middle and high school English for nine years including teaching at SCS academies. Vivian has worked in a variety of capacities for SCS including classroom teacher, Education Specialist, BTSA Support Provider, and online teacher.

Vivian and her family moved to California from New Hampshire where she grew up, completed her education and taught for several years. In California, Vivian completed her post graduate education and earned National Board Certification.

Vivian continues to develop as an educator and promote her belief in life-long learning.



# Homeschool Director Team

EL and Special Ed Support: Nancy Branchaud

Student Support: Jackie Dee

Teacher Support and Development: April Jacoby

Marketing: Tammy Jackson

Curriculum and Instructional Support: Shirley Jones

# Nancy Branchaud Homeschool Director of Instructional Support



Nancy's charter school career began as a Homeschool parent with Springs Charter Schools in 2000 (Eagles Peak) , and she became an ES in 2001.

In the 90s she taught a variety of elementary grades in both the Ontario-Montclair and Corona-Norco districts. Nancy have been intimately involved with English Learner programs since receiving her Multiple Subject Credential with BCLAD: Spanish. She has received extensive training in reading instruction and has experience teaching Spanish to high school students.

Currently, as a member of the Homeschool Director team, Nancy oversees 31 Eses, as well as academic improvement opportunities.

Nancy's educational passion is Homeschooling and she would love the opportunity to discuss it with you!

**Contacting Nancy:** [760-310-8072](tel:760-310-8072)   [Nancy.Branchaud@RiverSpringsCharter.org](mailto:Nancy.Branchaud@RiverSpringsCharter.org)

# Nancy's Team of ESes

Anne Akins

Tina Angle

Kari Arnson

Jim Barela

Megan Bunnell

Lindsey Callister

Penny Friesen

Kari Gillette

Laura Gottdiner

Krista Gradias

Kim Hein

Jacki Hike

Kim Hooper

Heidi Kemp

Shawna Lewis

Vondella McCombs

Teresa Moran

Jenna Scherrer

Nina Serna

Tim Sherwood

# Jackie Dee

## Homeschool Director of Student Support



Jackie Dee earned her BA in Communications from the University of Tulsa and holds a Multiple Subject (CLAD) Teaching Credential and Administrative Services Credential. She has been with Springs Charter Schools/River Springs/Eagles Peak since 2004 and is currently a Homeschool Director serving ESes in San Diego, Orange County, Temecula, Murrieta, Hemet and all points in between. She was introduced to charter homeschool education while teaching at Vista Unified School District, and decided to make the transition from teaching at the local public school when she became an Education Specialist (ES) in 2004. Jackie loves being a part of a school that offers so many educational options and resources to parents and their children!

*“My job allows me to see the great success parents achieve with their children because they are able to tailor their children’s education to best suite their strengths and needs.”*

*Contacting Jackie: 951-252-8839 [Jackie.Dee@riverspringscharter.org](mailto:Jackie.Dee@riverspringscharter.org)*

# Jackie's Team of Eses

Kathy Anger

Karen Arnett

Laura Balance

Hollie Cheowanich

Jill Chiotti

Laura Forberg

Debbie Grabosky

Kelly Harrel

Nicole Haynes

Amy Heiman

Jacquelyn Hunter

Krissa Jeldy

Kandyce Nelson

Barbara Osterkamp

Tammy Sanchez

Laura Schlabach

Nicki Shultz

Laurel Swaney

Myrna Teramura

# April Jacoby

## Homeschool Director of Teacher Support and Development



As a graduate of California State University Fresno with a BS degree in Animal Science, April did not come directly to the teaching profession. She worked as a Veterinary Technician through college and then became an animal trainer in the motion picture industry. Later in life, she completed the Teacher Education Program at Azusa Pacific University, obtaining her CA Single Subject credential in Biological/Life Sciences, with a Supplementary Authorization in Animal Science. April worked as an Educational Specialist with SCS for over 5 years, and decided to apply her skills by Homeschooling two of her three grown sons in their Junior High and High School years. The 2010 school year brought with it many exciting changes. She started a new job at SCS as a Homeschool Director, and at almost the same time was blessed with a baby girl, Jordyn, born in October. Now that she is 3, April looks forward to homeschooling her as well. She feels very fortunate to be affiliated with Springs Charter Schools, and look forward to a long and rewarding career with this wonderful school.

***Contacting April: 951-595-9423***

***April.Jacoby@RiverSpringsCharter.org***

# April's Team of ESes

Jennifer Cleary

Kathy Cleary

Alyce Donahue

Marcey Ellis

Brenda Gabler

Jocelyn Garcia

Margie Garcia

Amy Gilpin

Stephanie Grutzmacher

Kim Heimbach

Kristi Kelley

Brenda Maingot

Julie Norman

Holly Ostroske

Mari Russi

Ann Schuster

Kristine Smith

Renee Swartz

Mandy Themm

Courtnie Wallace

# Tammy Jackson

## Homeschool Director, Marketing



I've been in education for 13 years and before that I was a stay at home mom for 10 years. My 2 children are now adults and my youngest went off to college to WSU just this year.

I've had the privilege of working for home school charters for the last 7 years. During these 7 years I've worked as an ES, a site facilitator, and as a home school director. Charters have proven to me I did everything wrong as a mother...lol!

Seriously, I learned early on that parents that dedicate themselves to their home school endeavors had much to teach me about education. Keeping this teachable/collaborative attitude with staff and families has been the key to my job satisfaction. I am so excited to be part of the Springs family!

***Contacting Tammy: 949-973-2121***  
***Tammy.jackson@springscs.org***

# Tammy's Team of ESes

Virginia Arvizu-Calvillo

Cheryl Baumeister

Colette Bozek

Wendy Bucaro

Erin Burandt

Margie Glickman Jones

Tiffany Harper

Heather Hauck

Lynn Kusleika

Beth Packer

Traci Roushanzamir

Jake White

Esther Yanez

# Shirley Jones

## Homeschool Director: Curriculum & Instructional Support



I received a double major in Christian Education and Liberal Studies with a teaching credential from Biola University and a Master of Education in Administration degree from Azusa Pacific University. I also have a CLAD certificate. Anaheim City School District, where my husband and I met my first day of teaching, is where I taught for 5 years and was a Vice Principal for 2 years before I was promoted to VPP (Very Proud Parent). I continued to teach for Chapman University and to consult for Anaheim City School District until I began as an ES at Springs in 2009.

Some of my favorite hobbies include going on dates with my husband, taking family vacations, managing my sons' baseball teams, coaching my daughter's basketball team, cruising in my mom's yellow convertible corvette, and watching or participating in sports – especially football, baseball and basketball.

My husband and I have been homeschooling our own 4 children for the past 14 years and have learned quite a lot along the way. All 4 of them have been a part of Springs. "I am blessed to be able to spend so much time with my own kids and now through Springs to help shape the next generation!"

***Contacting Shirley: 951-545-2980***  
***Shirley.jones@springscs.org***

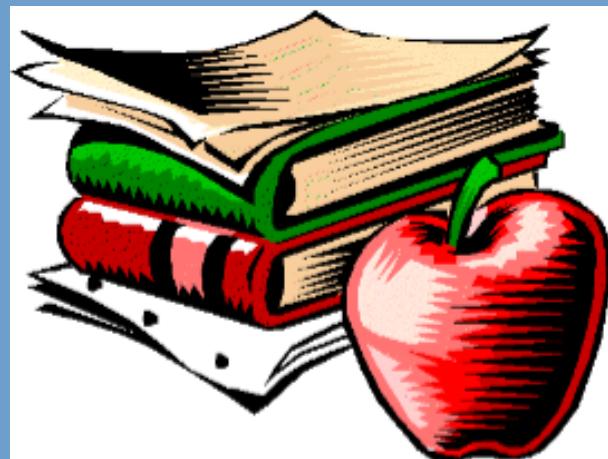
# Shirley's Team of Eses

Mandy Adcock  
Kristina Allred  
Pat Collins  
Stephanie DeJong  
Adrienne DeLaTorre  
Michelle Deering  
Keisha Goosby  
Kate Lynch  
Jessica McIntyre  
Debbie Mellinger

Erika Nevares  
Nadia Phillips  
Amy Strauss  
Michelle Sullivan  
Nicole Trimble  
Sunny VanFossen

# Homeschool Terminology

✓ ES	✓ P-1, P-2
✓ Attendance	✓ Personalized Learning
✓ Learning Plan	✓ Educational Philosophy
✓ Monthly meetings	✓ Learning Style
✓ Portfolio	✓ I.F.
✓ Key Skills	✓ P.O.



# Homeschool Terms Defined

**Education Specialist:** The ES is a California credentialed teacher.

The ES helps the parent to determine/review the student's learning style, and the parent's educational philosophy. Curriculum is selected after these discussions. The ES then serves to support the homeschooling parent in developing and implementing the student's personalized learning plan.

**Attendance (WPR):** This is a log of the educational activities in which the student is involved on a daily basis. It is to be completed by the parent either by hand or electronically.

**Learning Plan(LP):** Each month you, your child and the ES will review the work that was completed since the last monthly meeting, and will develop the goals and learning plan for the next learning period. The ES will be assisting with all subject areas: History, Language Arts, Life Skills, Math, Science, & Special Interests.

**Monthly meeting:** You will meet with your ES at least once every 20 school days to discuss your concerns or needs, to review your student's work and to develop the plan for the student's educational activities for the upcoming month.

# Homeschool Terms Defined, cont.

**Portfolio:** Your ES will collect one work sample per subject area each semester to be placed in the portfolio. The ES may request samples each month in order to have a selection to choose from; unused samples will be returned.

**Key Skills:** This is a list of specific concepts at each grade level (California State Standards). Your ES will discuss the Key Skills with you and help you to cover them in your instruction during the year. This is optional.

**Instructional Funds (I.F.):** Each student is provided an account with a specific amount of Instructional Funds for the year. Your ES maintains the account, and will help you to choose and purchase both curriculum and educational activities.

**Purchase Order (P.O.):** A purchase order results when your ES places an order through the student's instructional funds account. The P.O. is sent to the vendor as a promise to pay once the materials/services have been received. As a California public institution, RSCS cannot pay for materials/services that have not yet been provided.

# Homeschool Terms Defined, cont.

**P-1 & P-2:** A collection of attendance for all students in the school on a state specified date is required to be submitted as a true count of student enrollment on that particular date; subsequent funding for the school year is provided to RSCS based on the attendance counted on that date.

**Personalized Learning:** Curriculum selections are based on each individual student. The ES and parent take into consideration each child's strengths and weaknesses, as well as how the student learns.

**Educational Philosophy:** The manner in which the parent instructs the student is based on the parent's values and goals for student learning.

**Learning Style:** Learning styles are the manner in which a student learns. The student could "prefer" to use auditory, visual, or kinesthetic materials and learning situations. Please ask your ES for the Kaleidoscope Profile form to help determine your child's preferred learning style.

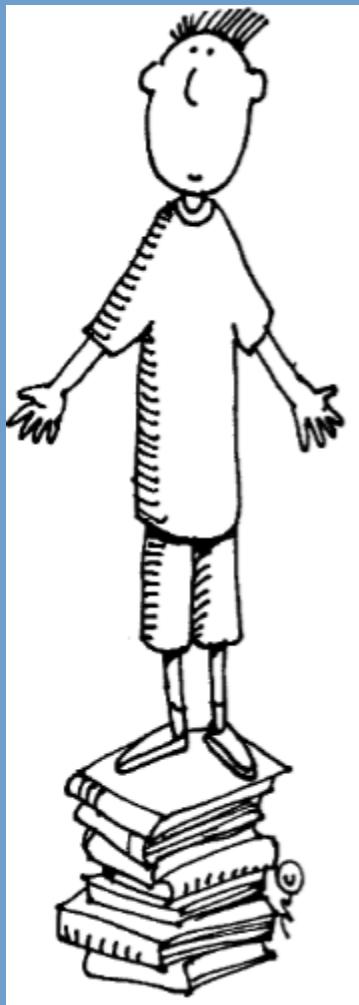
# Kaleidoscope Profile

The Kaleidoscope Profile helps us to determine the preferred learning style for 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents.



Ask your ES for this outstanding tool.

# High School Guidance



School counselors, referred to as “guidance counselors” in the past, help every student improve academic achievement, personal and social development, and career planning.

School counselors in the 21st century are highly trained educators in pre K—12 settings who uphold ethical and professional standards to design, implement and manage comprehensive, developmental, results-based school counseling programs that promote and enhance student success.

School counselors are certified or licensed professionals who possess a master’s degree or higher in school counseling, or a substantial equivalent, meet the state certification/licensure standards and abide by the laws of the states in which they are employed.

Excerpt from “Who Are School Counselors?” Published in 2008 as a joint effort of the American Counseling Association, the American School Counselor Association and the National Education Association.

# All of our high school courses are A-G approved

- \* Offered at all California public high schools
- \* Each course is approved by University of California Regents
- \* Course content meets expected rigor for college bound students
- \* Courses are accepted at all California State and University of California campuses, as well as private & out of state universities
- \* A-G courses limit parent choice options in curriculum, textbook selection and assignments; students must have an opportunity for face-to-face contact with a highly qualified teacher in each subject during each week of school.
- \* A-G course options are offered in both the Homeschool and Academy programs at River Springs
- \* a = history/social science, b = English, c = mathematics, d = lab science, e = language other than English, f = visual & performing arts, g = college prep electives

# WASC Accreditation



WASC stands for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

River Springs is a WASC accredited school.

*What is so important about WASC accreditation?*

WASC is the standard high school and college accrediting entity on the west coast.

Courses taken at a WASC accredited high school or college are transferrable to other high schools and accepted at all higher learning institutions.

# Need more information?

Ask your Education Specialist. All ESes at Springs Charter Schools are trained to assist with high school advisement.

Every high school student has an assigned school counselor; ask your ES for the contact information.

**To contact the Guidance Department call  
951-252-8800**

# The SCS Homeschool Program

Springs Charter Schools strives to uphold parent choice in education.

Through a choice of educational programs, curriculum and teachers SCS parents can monitor materials that affect their children's attitudes, values, and beliefs.

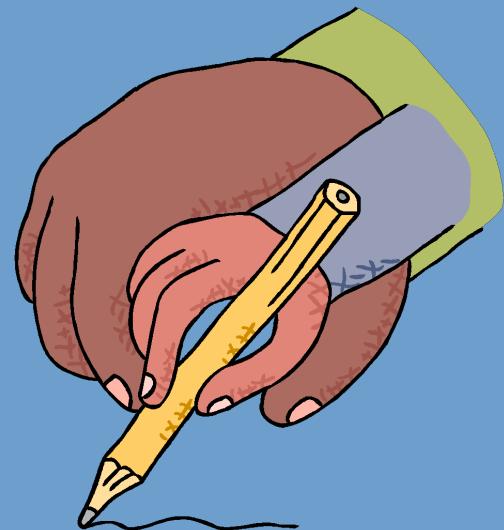
# Homeschool Prep

For the parent new to homeschooling with Springs Charter Schools we offer the Homeschool Prep program. Parents whose students enroll in this program are provided with an additional monthly meeting with their ES. The ES will train the parent in delivering instruction, as well as provide the strategies and support necessary to succeed as a home educator. The students will work through our Boxed Set curriculum, our High School Curriculum Guide, or follow an annual plan created with their ES using parent choice curriculum. The parent and students will transition within @ three months into traditional Homeschool program, or in to another more suitable program.



# Expectations for Parents

- Administer student instruction
- Meet monthly with the assigned ES  
(*every 2 weeks in Homeschool Prep*)
- Collaborate to personalize learning
- Continually assess student learning and reflect on the best instructional practices to meet the student's needs (adjust the program as needed)
- Report attendance
- Provide work samples



# Expectations for Education Specialists

- To collaborate with parents in developing the student's personalized learning plan
- To research and recommend educational options and create purchase orders for materials/activities
- To meet monthly and provide support for the student's educational goals
- To evaluate student progress monthly
- To keep the family informed of news and events at SCS



# Expectations for Students

- Enjoy learning
- Set goals and strive to achieve them
- Listen to your teacher
- Try your best every day
- Ask for help when you need it



# The SCS I CAN! Program

The K-8 I Can! statements and the I Can! incentive program assist students and their parents in focusing on the most important grade level skills as identified by the state of California.

Ask your ES for more information about this fun program.



# Grade Level Key Skills (Grades K-8)

The SCS staff have developed the Key Skills in order to assist parents with identifying the standards that the state of California has indicated are most crucial for students to learn each year in grades K-8.

# Types of Assessments

## Formal

State Mandated

I-Ready

Assessment Tool Box

## Informal

Observation

Discussion

## State-Mandated

CAHSEE

CELDT

CAASPP (also Writing & EAP)

Physical Fitness



# Questions about testing?

*Contact:*

*Liz Copeland*

*Assistant Director of Assessment*

[Liz.Copeland@springscs.org](mailto:Liz.Copeland@springscs.org)

# I-Ready Online Assessment

Every student learns at a different pace and has different instructional needs. Unfortunately, it is not always easy to recognize those needs and provide each student with individualized instruction, targeted at his or her own proficiency level.

I-Ready's assessments help you and your ES to personalize a learning plan that will meet the exact needs of your student. I-Ready combines a research-based, content-rich computer adaptive test, with helpful reports, learning objectives, and interactive lessons designed for your student.

The computer adaptive test quickly pinpoints the student's proficiency levels in Reading, and Math SCS offers this wonderful tool for grades K-12  
Contact your ES for login and password information.



# Distance Learning Opportunities

Ask your ES about these learning opportunities for your student:

- \* *ALEKS*
- \* *Enchanted Learning*
- \* *Reading A-Z*
- \* *Rosetta Stone*
- \* *Discovery Education Streaming Videos*



# Guidelines for Success

- \* Both you and your child should get proper rest, nutrition and exercise
- \* Identify academic goals on a regular basis
- \* Complete schoolwork daily
- \* Maintain good study habits and a distraction-free study area
- \* Get involved in extracurricular activities

# Guidelines for Success (continued)

- \* Collaborate with your ES on a consistent basis  
(S/he is available to you by phone and email between monthly meetings)
- \* Watch your child – you will learn a lot by observing
- \* Spend at minimum one hour working on math each day
- \* Stick with short frequent lessons
- \* Read widely and for a variety of purposes
- \* Focus on interests, hands-on activities, and fun!

# Your success as a homeschooling parent is important to us.

If you would like to speak with someone in addition to your ES about any questions or concerns you may have, please contact your ES's Homeschool Director. Her contact information is near the beginning of this orientation.



# Calendar of Events

The school calendar can be found on the homepage of our website at:

[www.springsscharterschools.org](http://www.springsscharterschools.org)

See the “calendars” link at the top of the page

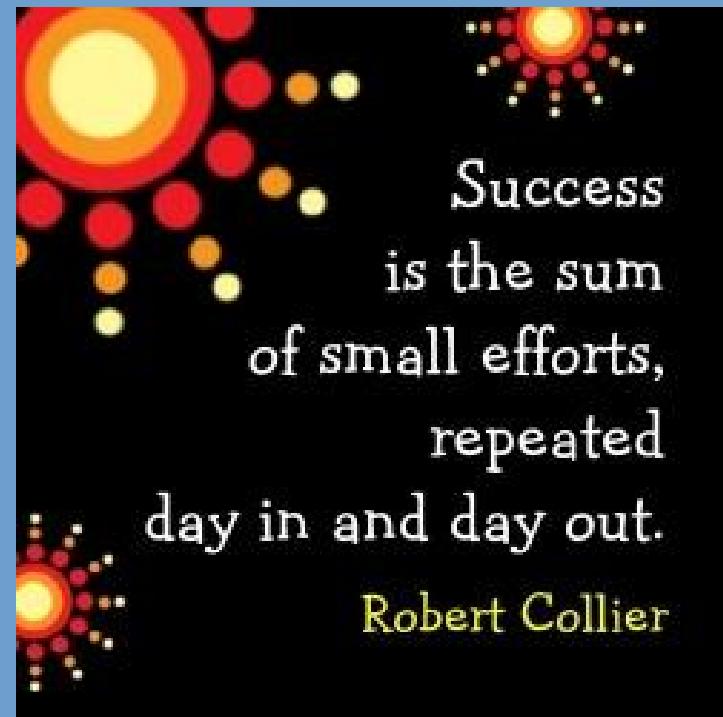


# Resources For More Information

- Ask your ES
- See the online Parent Handbook
- Contact your ES's Homeschool Director
- Meet with your child's Guidance Counselor
- Contact the Special Education Department
- See local Learning Centers (Corona, Hemet, OC, Riverside, Temecula, Murrieta, Lake Elsinore, Rancho Cucamonga, Otay Ranch)
- See the Homeschool and Events sections of the website:

Parent Events: Parent Certification, Park Days, SPREE events, & our Annual Curriculum Conference

Student Events: Fieldtrips, Park Days, competitions, SPREE events, workshops and graduation



Thank you!