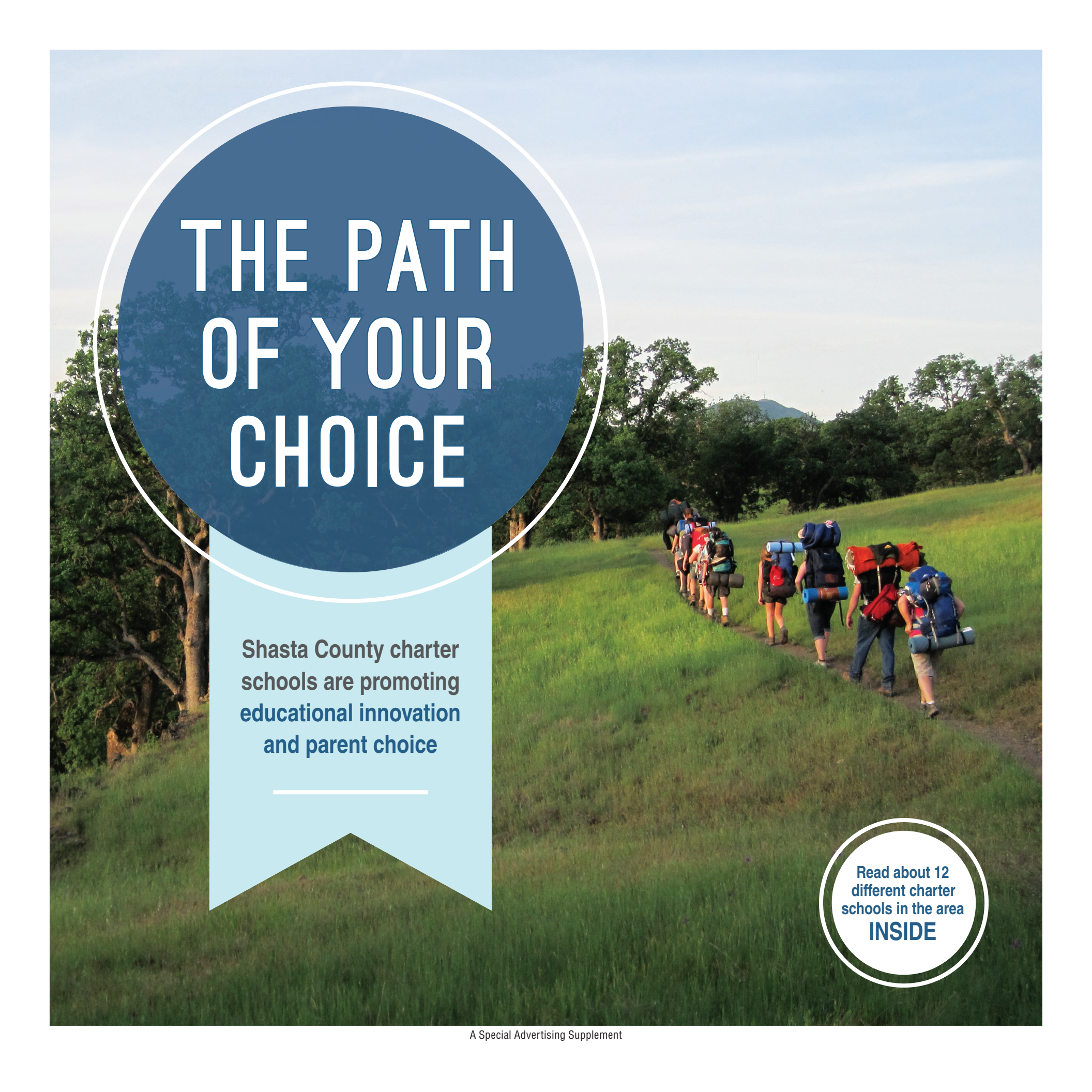




THE PATH OF YOUR CHOICE

Shasta County charter
schools are promoting
educational innovation
and parent choice

Read about 12
different charter
schools in the area
INSIDE

WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

Charter schools have been leaders in educational innovation for more than two decades in California, but some may not know the facts about charters.

CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE:

Public and free: Charter schools are open to all families who seek quality education. The schools receive public funding from state and local taxes, with additional funding available for high-needs students. Some charter schools have waitlists and lottery systems for enrollment, depending on demand and space available.

Inclusive: Charter schools reflect the diversity of communities and welcome students from different regions and neighborhoods, as space allows.

Innovative: Charter schools allow more freedom for educators and parents to design curriculum and make educational decisions that are right for their students, such as independent study.

Accountable: With greater freedom and control comes greater accountability measures. Charter schools are renewed regularly and teachers are credentialed for core and college prep subjects.

An estimated 580,000 children attend charter schools in California, and that number continues to grow. Continue reading to discover how charter schools throughout the region are meeting the diverse needs of students.



ELEVATING EVERY STUDENT

Shasta County's charter schools provide diverse opportunities for families

by Kate Gonzales

There isn't a job more important than preparing our children for the future. The best way to build a bright future is through education, and in Shasta County, there are many schools, both charters and neighborhood schools, that offer new ideas and options for all families. However, some may not know the facts about charters.

The region is home to innovative charter schools that enhance the educational landscape — particularly in rural areas.

"There are a lot of options in Shasta County, which is amazing in a rural community," says Laura Kerr, managing regional director for the California Charter Schools Association. "Shasta is really unique."

Those options for students and families include charter schools that specialize in performing arts, environmental sciences, and project based learning, or offer combinations of home schooling and classroom instruction. California's Charter Schools Act of 1992 paved the way for educators and parents to establish schools tailored to the unique needs of students.

"The goal of the charter schools movement is to improve all public education," Kerr says, "not just public education for children who are attending charter schools."

She says charter schools allow teachers more control in planning

curriculum, and often provide families with a more individualized approach to education for their student. Eric Premack, executive director and founder of Charter Schools Development Center, agrees that the personalized approach of many charter schools is key to student success.

"Parents, and their kids, typically find a better 'fit' between the students' needs and what the school offers," he says.

Charter schools work especially hard to meet a diverse range of student needs and reduce any barriers to enrollment. Every charter school must include a plan to serve high-achieving students, struggling students, English language learners and students with special needs.

Premack says it is vitally important for charter schools to prioritize these needs throughout their planning process.

"When student needs are the central focus, quality tends to go up — a lot," he says.

The innovation charter schools bring to the educational landscape can lift all boats, promoting new ideas and techniques for traditional neighborhood schools.

"[Charter schools] do it both by pushing innovation in terms of curriculum, instruction and management as well as putting competitive pressure on the traditional district-run system," Premack says.

“WHEN STUDENT NEEDS ARE THE CENTRAL FOCUS, QUALITY TENDS TO GO UP.”



Eric Premack
Founder and executive director, Charter Schools Development Center

The fact that there are thousands of kids on charter school waiting lists in California demonstrates that these schools of choice are in demand.

"All charter schools are different," Kerr says. "It's really important for families to understand what the mission and the education program is for the charter they're looking at."

Continue reading to explore the diverse options that charter schools provide in Shasta County.

Fourth grader Anthony Ramirez thrives on the hands-on learning opportunities he gets at his school, one of the several reasons his parents chose to enroll him in a charter school.
PHOTO BY GREG BARNETTE

A LOVE OF LEARNING

Charter school makes class fun for fourth grader

by Anne Stokes

Nine-year-old Anthony Ramirez loves science and creative writing. According to his parents Desiree and Antonio Ramirez, he thrives on hands-on learning and using his imagination, but the traditional public and private schools he attended weren't meeting his needs.

"Anthony is a very intelligent boy, but he was falling behind in traditional neighborhood schools. He was just sitting there. He was bored," says his mom, Desiree. "He would come home every day and say, 'It's so boring ... I've already learned this stuff.'"

She saw a change in her son when Anthony started the fourth grade at a local charter school in 2016. The charter school's individualized instruction and science emphasis renewed Anthony's excitement for learning.

"If there were an extra 10 kids in the class, I don't see how the teacher would be able to give that attention in the classroom," says his father, Antonio. "It really [allows]

for all that individualized instruction and makes the kids curious for learning."

Desiree says she enjoys volunteering in her son's classroom because it gives her the opportunity to be more involved in his education.

"It's a little community," she says. "I can see what he's doing in the classroom and we come home and talk about it, what they did in math, what they did in science."

Small class sizes also allow for more interactive and hands-on lessons, which has built up Anthony's enthusiasm for learning.

"The other day, Anthony came home and built his own circuit board. It's amazing!" Desiree says. "It took about a week or two, but every day he came home and said, 'We're building something!'"

Another recent project involved creating a video on beekeeping. The fourth grader worked with classmates

to research, film and present their findings. Antonio says it's a good example of taking lessons from the classroom and applying them to a practical, real-life context.

"[They're] taking it from a book, through their imagination," Antonio says. "It's fun watching kids be excited about learning."

“
IT'S FUN WATCHING
KIDS BE EXCITED
ABOUT LEARNING.
”

Antonio Ramirez
Parent

SERVING STUDENTS WITH DIVERSE NEEDS

Kimberly Barber wants her grandsons to remember that charter schools helped give them a leg up.

Barber is guardian of her grandsons — one in kindergarten and one in seventh grade — who attend an area charter school. Having previously lived in an unstable home, the seventh grader had trouble forming relationships because

he had switched schools so frequently. Barber believes the individual support he's received from charter school staff has helped him grow.

"They came together as a team and assessed his emotional as well as educational needs," she says, adding that every student comes to school with different backgrounds.

That's a major strength of charter schools: They have the flexibility to develop paths to success for every child, including those from low-income families, students whose second language is English, foster youth and students with special needs.

With 23 years of experience as a special education teacher, Jean Hatch, founder of Redding School of the Arts

and director of North State Charter Joint Powers Authority, says charter schools create an environment of greater freedom to meet all students' needs.

"You have a lot more flexibility to help kids," she says.

THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

Personalized attention and hands-on learning made all the difference for student

by Anne Stokes



The personalized instruction and hands-on learning renewed Eva Bryant's enthusiasm for learning and set her up with a foundation for later success.
PHOTO BY GREG BARNETTE

As a fifth grader, Eva Bryant struggled to keep up with her schoolwork. One-on-one time with teachers and hands-on learning were hard to come by in the traditional public school classrooms she was in. That changed in the fifth grade, when she enrolled in a charter school.

Today, sixteen-year-old Eva Bryant is an honor roll student and sophomore at West Valley High School. She maintains a high grade average and credits her success to the strong educational foundation from her charter school experience.

What helped, she says, was that her teachers taught her how to be responsible for her own education: they pushed her to ask for help, taught her how to keep organized, meet deadlines and helped her set goals — all skills that not only serve her well in high school, but will help her succeed in her future career.

“They taught her how to learn. They made it so that she really loved to go to school,” says Shirley Bryant, Eva’s grandmother and legal guardian. “If [students] are doing bad, they’d help them — they stay after school, you have access to tutors. ... She did get a lot of personalized attention.”

According to Eva and her grandmother, that personalized attention from dedicated teachers as well as hands-on learning experiences in and out of the classroom made a big difference for Eva.

“The teachers made it so much more interesting than just sitting at a desk learning something,” Eva says. “I’d wake up in the morning and think: What are we going to learn today? I wanted to go to school and actually learn something.”

Educational opportunities included weekly field trips such as kayaking on Whiskeytown Lake, hiking and volunteering at a local food bank. There were also after-school extracurricular activities like sewing, art, working with computers, choir, dance and archery.

“It was definitely hands-on,” says Eva. “That was a lot more helpful because ... instead of seeing it in a book, you got to do it yourself.”

Bryant says that she feels that selecting a charter school for her granddaughter was the right choice and that she has

flourished because of her time there.

“They took such an interest in her ... but it wasn’t just her, they take an interest in all their students,” Bryant says. “She was happy to go to school and she still is.”

“I’D WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AND THINK: WHAT ARE WE GOING TO LEARN TODAY?”

Eva Bryant
Charter school alumna

SUCCESS AFTER GRADUATION

Small class sizes, personalized instruction and flexible learning options are just some of the ways that charter schools help prepare students for life after graduation.

“We help them find and understand their strengths and develop skills that are necessary in jobs and in life,” says Carol Germano, principal at Anderson New Technology High School. “We try to keep all the doors open for our students so that they have a choice, no matter what it is they want to do.”

For students on the track to college, charter schools can offer:

- A-G coursework required for UC and CSU admission
- Concurrent enrollment for college classes
- Internships and career and technical education courses for real-world experience

Charter schools also have the freedom to emphasize disciplines including art or technology. According to Germano, such programs attract students with an artistic aptitude or an interest in STEM, allowing them to pursue potential college and career paths while still in junior or high school.

GETTING TO KNOW CHARTERS

Answering common questions about charter schools

by Kate Gonzales



Laura Kerr, managing regional director for the California Charter Schools Association
COURTESY PHOTO

In California, the public school landscape has continued to change since the passing of the California Charter Schools Act of 1992. During the 2015-16 school year, there were 1,228 public charter schools in California and that number continues to grow.

Many parents and community members have questions about charter schools and Laura Kerr, managing regional director for the California Charter Schools Association, has the answers.

HOW DOES ENROLLMENT WORK AT CHARTER SCHOOLS?

Charter schools are public schools that have to serve all students they enroll, including English language learners and students with special needs. When there are more applications than there are seats, there has to be a public random lottery to determine who gets in. The rules for the lottery are part of the charter document, which is approved and reviewed by a public school board. So they hold the charter accountable for making sure all students can attend and that there are not any barriers to attendance.

ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS PRIVATE?

Charter schools are public schools and they are tuition free. In California, it's very clear that we are public schools. Some of them are operated by school districts directly and others are operated by nonprofits.

HOW ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS HELD ACCOUNTABLE? DO STUDENTS AT CHARTER SCHOOLS STILL NEED TO MEET STATE EDUCATION STANDARDS?

Charter schools are held accountable for academic, financial and operational performance by the agencies that operate them. They must hire credentialed teachers in core subjects and administer state standardized tests. That also provides a way for parents to compare how charter schools are doing compared to their local neighborhood schools.

DO CHARTER SCHOOLS MEET THE NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS?

Yes, absolutely. For non-classroom based schools, they offer lots of flexibility for kids that maybe are having a hard time making it to school or have transportation issues.

ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS THE ONLY SCHOOLS OF CHOICE?

No. There are many public schools in Shasta County, with their own unique programs. It is important that parents explore all of their options before choosing a school for their child. Charter schools are one option; careful consideration of all options will help each child and family find the one that fits them best.

CAN PARENTS ENROLL STUDENTS IF THEY LIVE OUTSIDE A SCHOOL DISTRICT'S BOUNDARIES?

Yes. Charter schools are open to all students, regardless of where you live. Contact the charter school directly to learn more about enrollment timelines.

WHY DO SOME CHARTER SCHOOL SITES LOOK DIFFERENT THAN A TRADITIONAL SCHOOL?

Unlike traditional public schools, charter public schools are not guaranteed access to taxpayer-funded facilities. That means they need to be creative when looking for space, while also following applicable rules for school facilities.

DO CHARTER SCHOOLS SERVE THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS?

Charter schools are required to provide a plan for achieving racial and ethnic balance in their charter. This plan often includes strategies to reach out to historically under-represented and minority students. The intent is for charter demographics to reflect the communities they serve by ensuring parents are informed and students have access to the school.

ANDERSON NEW TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

“Small school community, world class education utilizing 21st century skills.”



Grades: 9-12



2098 North St.
Anderson, CA 96007



530-365-3100



anths.org

FOUNDED: 2001

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Project Based Learning** achieves real-world knowledge and skills through collaboration and research.
- Students learn how to use **technology** to achieve their goals with a 1-to-1 student-computer ratio in every classroom.
- An **amazing curriculum** that includes internships, community service, college classes and a learning environment built on relationships and trust.

WHAT EDUCATORS ARE SAYING:

“We welcome each unique student and work to optimize strengths, overcome weaknesses and to create successful, contributing adults.”

— Carol Germano, principal

HOW TO APPLY:

Visit anths.org under “About,” “Admission Forms,” or call Julie Brown at 530-365-3100.



CHRYSLIS CHARTER SCHOOL

“Encouraging the light within each student to shine brighter!”



Grades: TK-8 in classrooms or homeschool



21945 Old 44 Drive
Palo Cedro, CA 96073



530-547-9726



chrysalischarterschool.com



FOUNDED: 1996

HIGHLIGHTS:

- School **teaches for understanding** in classes that are small and student-centered. Students are grouped by ability.
- Focus on **science and nature** through experiential science, outdoor field study, camping and rafting.
- Fosters a **kind, supportive community** where students can be themselves as part of the Chrysalis family.

WHAT AN ALUMNA SAYS:

“Rather than forcing me through a standardized curriculum at a pre-determined pace, Chrysalis allowed me to pursue my own interests at a level of difficulty that was right for me.”

— Selena Faller, former student

HOW TO APPLY:

Visit Chrysalis Charter School online at chrysalischarterschool.com for an application or more information.

STELLAR CHARTER SCHOOL AND STELLAR CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

“Striving to prepare students for success in college, career, and life!”



Grades: TK-12



5885 E. Bonnyview Road
Redding, CA 96001



530-245-7730



stellar.reddingschools.net

FOUNDED: 1999 (Stellar Charter School) and 2002 (Stellar Charter High School)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Parents educate their children at home with individual support and technological resources through a **personalized learning model**.
- Combination of classroom and online learning with on-site classes providing **hands-on educational opportunities** from highly-trained and dedicated staff.

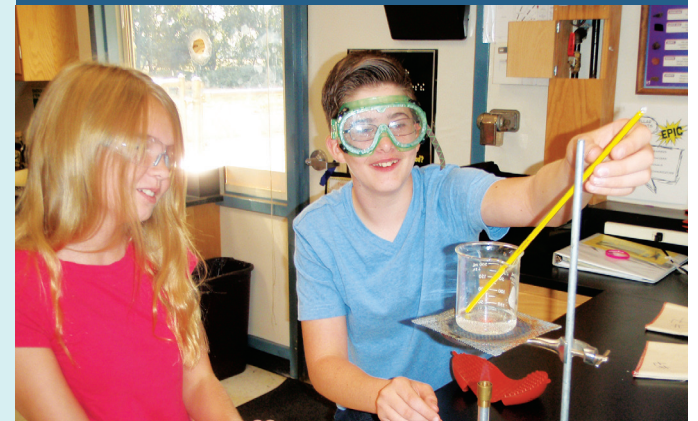
- **Extracurricular activities** like docent programs, visual and dramatic arts, yearbook, prom and internship programs.

WHAT EDUCATORS ARE SAYING:

“Stellar was created to provide an individualized program of study for every student. This allows for success of all students, struggling or accelerated.”
— *Cindy Anderson, founder*

HOW TO APPLY:

Visit stellar.reddingschools.net or contact Director Heidi Schueller at 530-245-7730 to schedule a tour.



MONARCH CHARTER SCHOOL

“We’re more than a school, we’re a family.”



Grades: TK-8



5307 Cedars Road
Redding, CA 96001



530-247-7307



www.monarchkids.com



FOUNDED: 2000

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Small class sizes** with highly educated teachers who provide students with individualized attention.
- All students select from engaging **extra-curricular electives** including karate, tennis and drama.
- Faculty, staff and students work together to create a **true community** that welcomes every family.

WHAT AN ALUMNUS SAYS:

“Monarch sets students up for success by providing a unique school experience that prepares you for more than just tests.”

— *Drake Lair, former student*

HOW TO APPLY:

Applications available online at monarchkids.com. For more information, call 530-247-7307.

ACADEMY OF PERSONALIZED LEARNING

“A 21st century, student-centered model that puts the needs of students first!”



Grades: K-12



2195 Larkspur Lane, Ste. 100
Redding, CA 96002



530-222-9275



ourapl.org

FOUNDED: 2009

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Supports **parent involvement** in their children's learning plan and process.
- Prepares students to be **lifelong learners** and productive, successful 21st century citizens.
- **Personalized Learning** gives students the power to reach their own highest learning potential, putting them in the driver's seat of their own education destination.

WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING:

“APL gives us a say in our children's education while providing them with classes that challenge them academically.”

— Kara Brumit, parent

HOW TO APPLY:

Apply online at ourapl.org or pick up an application at the school.



REDDING SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

“An educational community where the arts and lifelong learning is valued.”



Grades: K-8



955 Inspiration Place
Redding, CA 96003



530-247-6933



rsarts.org



FOUNDED: 1999

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Promoting childhood as a time to **experience wonder and imagine life** in its various shapes and sizes.
- **Bilingual Mandarin** instruction enhances intellectual development and improves a child's understanding of the English language.
- Strong **academic program** both in the classroom and through independent study.

WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING:

“Both of my children have thrived academically and socially. It has provided a great environment for growth in both areas.”

— Pauline Asbill, parent and former governing board member

HOW TO APPLY:

Applications can be found at rsarts.org.

ROCKY POINT CHARTER SCHOOL

“Today we learn, tomorrow we lead.”



Grades: K-8



3500 Tamarack Drive
Redding, CA 96003



530-225-0456



rockypointcharter.com

FOUNDED: 2007

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Rigorous **academic program** where challenging explorations connect real-world experiences to standards-based curriculum.
- **Nurturing learning environment** that balances physical development with academic excellence.
- **Learning experiences** that offer a sense of adventure and character development.

WHAT AN ALUMNA SAYS:

“At Rocky Point, I was able to progress through the curriculum at my own speed.”

— Sara Arias, former student

HOW TO APPLY:

Download an application at rockypointcharter.com or call the office at 530-225-0456.



REDDING STEM ACADEMY

“Relevant. Personalized. Meaningful. Preparing students for success in a changing world.”



Grades: K-8



3711 Oasis Road
Redding, CA 96003



530-275-5480



www.rstem.org



FOUNDED: 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Utilizes Project Lead the Way, a nationally recognized **STEM curriculum**, to foster students' natural interests in the STEM fields.
- **Individualizing curriculum** in grades K-8 with a 1:1 computer ratio.
- Features **dedicated science labs** for all grades.

WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING:

“My student has thrived at this school mostly in his confidence. Being at a small school has allowed him to shine more brightly, rather than getting lost in a sea of hundreds of kids.”

— Stacie Guthrie, parent

HOW TO APPLY:

Call the school at 530-275-5480 to schedule an orientation, where applications will be available. Download applications at www.rstem.org.

COTTONWOOD CREEK CHARTER SCHOOL

“Working together with families.”



Grades: K-8



3425 Brush St.
Cottonwood, CA 96022



530-347-7200



cottonwoodcreekcharter.com

FOUNDED: 2010

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Offers a “hybrid” educational model that seeks to provide a best-of-both-worlds approach, **combining site-based classes with homeschool.**
- Combining campus classes with homeschool allows for an increased level of **partnership** between families and school staff.
- Students have the ability to pursue a wide variety of music, technology and **enrichment classes.**

WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING:

“My favorite memory of this school is watching my child walk in the classroom each day and be greeted as a valued and treasured individual.”

— David Lee Johnson, parent

HOW TO APPLY:

For enrollment information, please contact our school office at 530-347-7200 or visit our website at cottonwoodcreekcharter.com.



SHASTA CHARTER ACADEMY

“Shasta Charter Academy honors and serves the family’s choice to personalize learning according to their children’s strengths.”



Grades: 9-12



307 Park Marina Circle
Redding, CA 96001



530-245-2600



shastacharteracademy.org



FOUNDED: 1999

HIGHLIGHTS:

- A **personal learning plan** is crafted for each student in collaboration with the student’s family.
- A student’s **life goals** are incorporated into his or her learning plan.
- **Exceptional learning experiences** are available for all students using on-site classes, homeschooling, online learning, concurrent classes at Shasta College and traditional high schools, and community-based learning options.

WHAT A FOUNDER SAYS:

“We came up with a system that could truly personalize school for any individual using all the methods available.” — Lynn Peebles

HOW TO APPLY:

Complete an application online and attend an orientation meeting with the school director.

NEW DAY ACADEMY-SHASTA

“We offer a personalized learning program designed to support each student’s strengths, needs and interests.”



Grades: TK-12 (both schools)



214 W. First St.
Alturas, CA 96101



530-233-3861



newdayacademy.net

FOUNDED: 2009 (New Day Academy)
2016 (Replication school, New Day Academy-Shasta)

GRADES: TK-12

HIGHLIGHTS:

- A **highly qualified education team** that works together to create and support a personalized learning plan for each student.
- **Dedication to parent participation** and choice in the selection of appropriate curriculum/materials for each student.

- A wide array of educational opportunities to include online courses, concurrent enrollment at community colleges, extracurricular opportunities, and educational field trips. Staff is fully dedicated to **supporting families choosing to school their children at home.**

WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING:

“My favorite aspect of New Day Academy is the relationship between the teachers and families.”
— *Julie Warner, parent and board member*

HOW TO APPLY:

Families can call 530-233-3861 for information regarding enrollment.



NORTHERN SUMMIT ACADEMY

“Learning ... the personalized way.”



Grades: TK-12



2877 Childress Dr.
Anderson, CA 96007



530-377-5885



ns-academy.org



FOUNDED: 2014

GRADES: TK-12

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **The WASC-accredited Personalized Learning Program** is based on instructional levels, personal goals, strengths, needs and graduation requirements.
- **CTE Pathways/Programs** offer courses in veterinary assistance, Microsoft certification, Certiport testing and natural resources.
- **Diverse offerings** include coursework with credential staff, a music teacher, tutors, field trips, A-G coursework and vendors who offer electives.

WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING:

“The educational program is tailored to each child, so they can study independently and at their own pace. They also have the benefit of classroom instruction as well as resources like computers and other materials.”
— *Patty Dalrymple, parent*

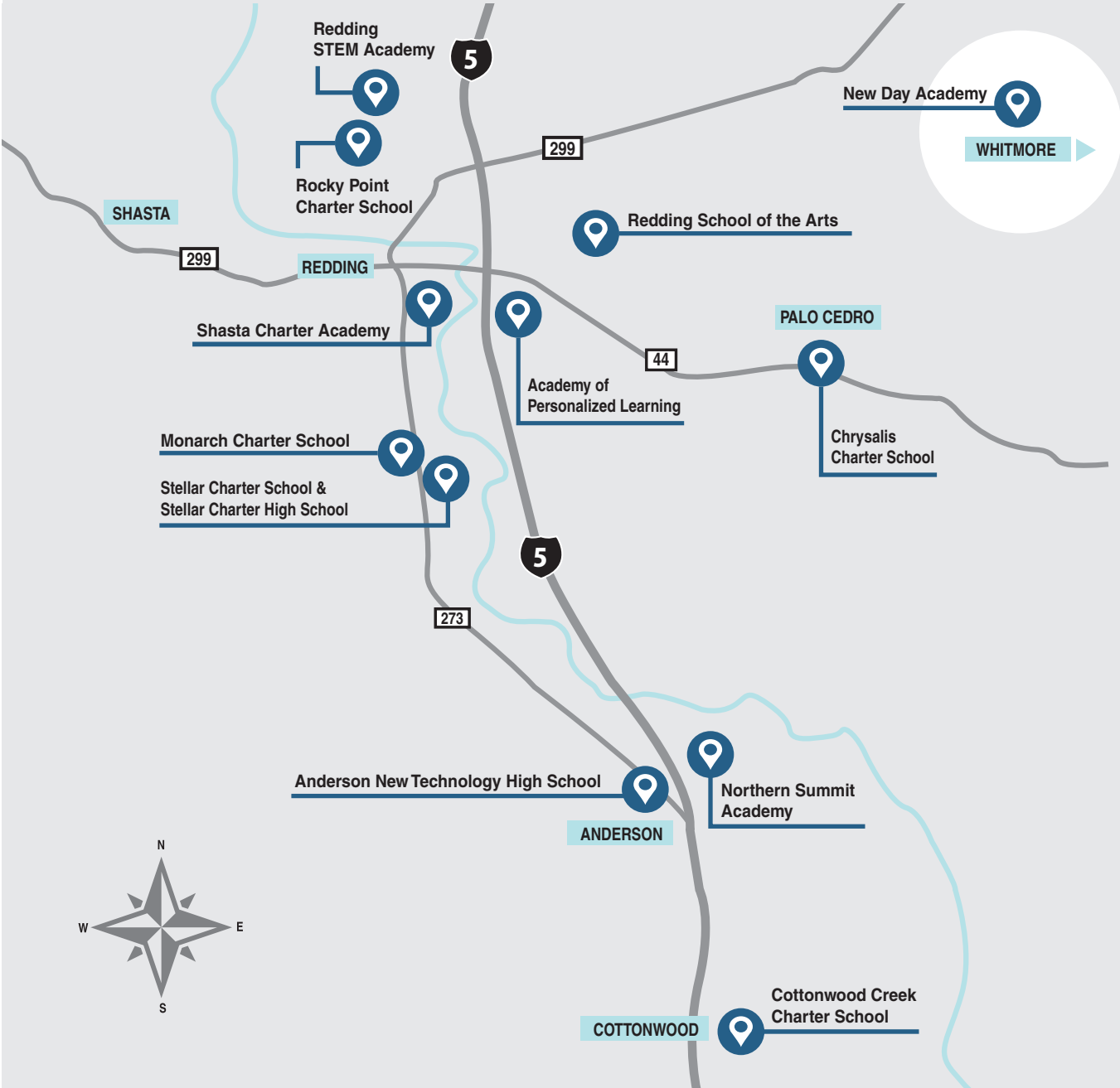
HOW TO APPLY:

Applications are accepted through the school’s online registration at ns-academy.org or in the resource center at the address above.

TODAY'S CHOICES TOMORROW'S SUCCESSES



Find the perfect charter school in Shasta County!



CHARTER SCHOOLS GIVE YOU OPTIONS

When it comes to choosing the right school for your child, isn't it best to have options? Parents and educators say yes!

Charter schools in the region offer a wealth of options and opportunities for all children. They meet students at various levels of performance, from high-achieving to those in traditionally low-achieving groups, promote diversity and truly engage students in meaningful learning. These schools provide the support and rigor, as well as the individualized attention through personalized learning that every child deserves.

The school your child attends today will lay the groundwork for their future, so research, visit and choose the best education! If you have been seeking an educational home for your child, look no further than Shasta County's community of charter schools.