



(First day back! Cooking class.)



Lydia Scardina, son Tom

"Our son, Tom is in the AccessSFUSD transition program which is now located at the Arc. This location provides Tom with additional support services which are specifically geared to people with disabilities. All facilities are fully accessible and Heidi and Ben provide a stimulating learning environment for the students, combining classroom instruction with meaningful work and volunteer assignments geared to each student's interests and capabilities. This has allowed Tom to gain meaningful life and work skills and has increased his sense of independence and confidence in his abilities."

Janet Kunze, daughter Ava Kunze

"We are fortunate to have an very positive and collaborative experience and relationship with our daughter's teachers and aides at Tule Elk Park. They go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure she is engaged, nurtured and safe. We love the education and its program. This was the first year (the pilot inclusion program) that Ava was in a GenEd class and it's been transformative for her - her language has exploded, she is more engaged with peers and learning great tools to cope and make transitions. She is learning the alphabet and her numbers. We love TEP and its premium program. We feel that the educators whom we have encountered are knowledgeable on autism, compassionate to the stresses and challenges of being parents to a special needs child and appreciate and respect our advocacy for our daughter."

Cheryl Vidales, son Christopher

"Christopher's first year out of high school and in a transition program has been wonderful. New things are generally very difficult for Christopher, but he adapted very quickly and easily to this program. He loves going to school everyday and is excited and happy to be taking classes at city college, working, and taking muni. Ben and Heidi have created an exceptional program that takes full advantage of the location and resources available in the community."

Joanne Tolosa, son Evan Grange (pictured on cover)



"My son comes home happy everyday. He is getting the individualized education, skills and experiences he needs to prepare him for adult life in the community - emotionally, socially, intellectually, economically, etc. - in particular - at his level of understanding and through very supportive people with the needed expertise. Everything is geared for his level of functioning. To use Evan's words, inclusion was "Awesome!" And AccessSFUSD: The ARC - "I love it!" "Heidi and Ben are dedicated, enthusiastic, creative/innovative and patient in meeting my son's needs, especially to be independent and responsible. An example of their dedication and being creative is sometimes volunteering their own time outside of the program to "make things happen" for him and the other students, such as taking a group of them to dinner, after the program ends, so that my son and others

can attend a monthly night time ARC dance, which logistically may not have been possible for me to bring him to, or the other parents. They are truly student-centered/student-focused, taking the time to know my son well, listen to him and introduce him to concepts and experiences that are enjoyable, promote self-esteem and self-development, all the while thinking of the lifelong impact these activities and outings can make.

Carla and Tim Gaiser, son Patrick

We are absolutely thrilled that our son, Patrick, is in the AccessSFUSD: The Arc program. He just began there in January and we can see him blossoming before our eyes! Heidi has gone out her way to get to know his unique strengths and abilities and her program provides plenty of meaningful activities to support them.



Frank & Kathleen Schlier: Parents of Alaina Schlier

"The Access SFUSD: The Arc program has been a great place for our daughter to continue to learn and grow as she navigates the adult world. Ben, Heidi and the staff have been very supportive to her and as a result she is motivated to try new things. We are happy that our daughter is part of the success of Access SFUSD: The Arc."

