

# Charles Ott Academy



Strafford Learning Center

## COA Coffee Roasters

### How to get in touch with us:

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This quarter, COA students took their first steps to starting their own business. The founding of COA Coffee Roasters has provided our students the opportunity to apply knowledge from a wide variety of subject areas using real life applications.

At the start of their venture, students learned about the various facets of business, such as research and development, accounting, marketing, and human resources. Students took on roles that interested them and complimented their strengths.

The students' first challenge was roasting the perfect coffee. We researched the thermal dynamics

of roasting methods, investigated how geography and climate may impact coffee bean cultivation, and experimented with different techniques of roasting, including building prototypes of very own coffee roaster.

Of course, the buck could not stop there. As a class, we explored the financial implications of starting a business. Students researched supply costs and calculated labor expenditures.

We also learned about marketing and advertising.

We began shooting short commercials, developing a social media presence, and web design.

Our next steps include finalizing our signature roast, coordinating community outreach, and providing you with the best possible cup of coffee.



A shot from one of our hilarious COA Coffee Roasters commercials. See the whole commercial



### Welcome to Mr. Tong!

Hi, I am David Tong and I'm the new STEM teacher at COA. I grew up in California and received my Bachelors of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley and my Master's Degree in Business Administration from Santa Clara University. I worked in program management for a textbook company and an assessment creator. I have been teaching for the past 10 years, enjoying the opportunity to help students grow and succeed. My wife and I have three grown children and are proud grandparents. We love to cross country ski, bike, and spend time at the beach. I'm looking forward to working with the students and helping them enjoy the sciences as much as I do.

-Mr. Tong

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## Message from the Director:

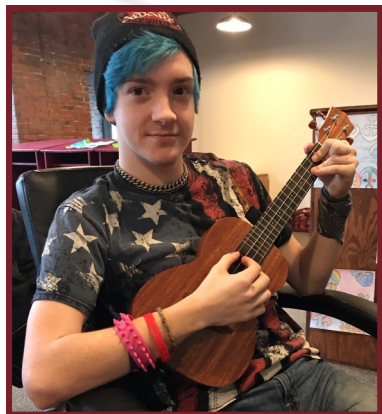
Greetings! Even though it is cold outside we are heating up here at COA. We are excited to welcome Mr. Tong to the community. His knowledge and excitement for alternative learning matches his love for science and math. During the interview process students had a chance to meet him, ask him questions, and weigh in on their thoughts about him. It is valuable for students to be part of the decision making process whenever possible. Our students always seem to have valuable insights and love sharing what they observe. Please feel free to reach out to Mr. Tong if you have questions or would like to get to know him a bit better.

On a sadder note we are saying goodbye to Mr. Jackson as he is leaving us to take care of a family member. His decision to leave was not easy as he loves working with our students. His contribution to our community has been invaluable. His humor and passion for the unique has been great for student engagement. He truly believes every student can succeed. This loss may be upsetting to students so please be aware that loss affects everyone differently. Amanda and I will be available to students who need to process their thoughts and feelings. We will be looking for another Humanities teacher as soon as possible. We wish Mr. Jackson the best and he will be missed.



-Paul Newell

## Student Spotlight



This quarter's student spotlight is on **John Ryan**.

John joined us at COA during the winter of 2017/2018 and immediately became part of our school family. Experiential and discussion based learning is right up John's ally. John is a wonderful friend to each of his peers, always takes other people's feelings into account and asks excellent, thought provoking questions.

John is almost always up for a game. Whether it be BannanaGrams, Uno, chess or telling a joke, his quick wit lightens the mood and makes people feel welcome.

Over the past semester, John has decided to participate in an Extended Learning Opportunity learning how to play the ukulele. I can't tell you just how impressed we are with his progress thus far! What a joy it has been to have a little tune strummed in the background of our work each day.

Thank you, John, for everything you contribute to our school!

## Check, Check, Checkmate!

Here at Charles Ott Academy, students have been bitten by the chess bug. Students have been making good use of down time by playing chess on our homemade board. Not only are the kids having fun, but there are many proven benefits of playing chess, such as: building self-esteem, improving problem solving skills, and boosting critical thinking. One study even shows that playing chess helps grow dendrites, or nerve endings, in the brain. Perhaps the greatest benefit of the students' chess playing is the sportsmanship displayed between peers. The staff needs to start studying moves and strategies in order to beat our aspiring chess prodigies.

