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### RSU # 38 Adult Education Adapting to meet Maranacook community needs

By Deb Bomaster

Adult education is a great field in which to work, in part because of its variety. Our clients or “customers,” if you will, come to us for diverse reasons. To some, adult education is a place to work toward a high school or GED diploma, or to prepare for higher education. For others, it is a place to pick up a needed job skill, whether that be welding, commercial driving or accounting software. Yet others come for the enjoyment of a travel, cooking or craft class, to learn a foreign language, or to take an exercise or self-help class.

To meet these various needs, Maranacook RSU 38 Adult Education employs a director and two part-time office staff, several certified academic teachers, and instructors with special skills

for our enrichment and community education classes. These non-academic classes are self-sustaining, meaning we receive no government support for these popular community programs. Revenue generated through enrollment in these courses pays the instructors and helps with office expenses and marketing costs, such as our

**Please contact us if you have a suggestion for a class – one you would like to take or one you are qualified to teach.**

catalogs and web pages. Any leftover revenue from these classes helps fund the Adult Basic Education program and GED programming, which are supported with tax dollars.

Last year, we helped 42 students to receive a high school or GED diploma. Most adult education diploma students have dropped out of school and face barriers to completing their education. Some are unemployed while others are under-employed and have families to support. We currently have 36 students enrolled in academic courses and expect that number to rise as the year progresses. Maranacook Adult Education is embarking on two new initiatives: family literacy and work readiness. As the details of these programs are finalized we'll get the word out to you through our web portal and our page on the school District's web site.

New this fall, in

response to a community need, we offered SAT math and English prep classes to high school students. We plan to offer the courses again before the SAT exam in May when all Maine high school juniors take the exam. With the help of a donation, our program purchased a dump truck last spring and has resumed offering commer-

cial driver training – the next class begins November 16. Also, we recently purchased 10 software licenses so we could add QuickBooks training at the request of community members. We plan a community survey early next year and hope you will participate letting us know how we might serve you better. But don't wait for the survey if you have a suggestion for a class – one you would like to take or one you are qualified to teach. Stop by to see us in the High School front office or email us.

As you may know, we joined with other adult education programs in putting all of our course information online at a new web portal in cooperation with the Maine Adult Education Association. This fall, we began accepting online registration and payment for courses through that web site. While we continue to produce three print course catalogs each year, the web portal contains the most up to date course information and we hope you will visit it often to find classes that may be of interest to you. As of last month, our site had been visited over 16,000 times by almost 2,000 people.



Adult Education Director Deb Bomaster with eleven of the program's 42 graduates in the Class of 2009.

**Maranacook Adult Ed online**  
<http://maranacook.maineadulted.org>  
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