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Avondale Estrella Mountain Community College Kids College provides a taste of higher education

by **Megan Gordon** - Jun. 14, 2011 10:20 AM
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The chefs worked quickly and independently kneading dough, roasting peppers and chopping tomatoes in a silver industrial kitchen.

Water was boiling on the stove.

The busy kitchen wasn't at a fancy restaurant with professionally trained cooks.

Thursday, it was filled with students getting their first taste in culinary arts at Estrella Mountain Community College at Thomas and Dysart roads in Avondale.

[Kids College culinary class in Avondale](#)

Students took part in a four-day camp as part of Estrella's Kid's College, where courses are offered through July 28.

Maureen Hannon, community education coordinator, said the 6-year-old summer program is for ages 4-18.

Topics include art, language, music, science and math, as well as babysitting and childcare. Hannon said courses, tailored to each age group, start at \$49.

"We want to bring the kids onto campus and give them a little bit of the college experience and (get them) engaged into discussions about college while having fun," she said.

Joe Kalfus, adjunct professor at Estrella and a Tolleson Union High School culinary teacher, said the summer program is a marketing tool for the culinary school.

"We're just trying to introduce students to culinary school as a job rather than a hobby," he said while dicing potatoes for breakfast burritos.

