



# Menta Academy Oak Park

January 2019

## Project Based Learning

### History of Gingerbread

In December, the 912 students completed a project about the History of Gingerbread. First, they completed background research and then compiled their information into eye-catching presentations using Google Slides. To wrap-up their project, students competed in a friendly competition to build the best Gingerbread house! The students did a wonderful job on all aspects of the project!



## Trauma-Informed

Menta Academy Oak Park is a trauma-informed school and was a pilot sight for other Menta schools. Trauma-informed schools recognize the impact trauma has on student's learning and social emotional development. At Menta, we focus on helping students build resiliency by creating a powerful and supportive relationship with each of our students. Staff creates opportunities for students to build self-efficacy through student led service and project based learning. This helps students build self-regulation skills through routine practice of mindfulness strategies, and by building community connections.

### Ms. Shontell



#### Staff Spotlight

Ms. Shontell has been with Menta for 6 years as a Job Coach. She works hard to help our students navigate the world of college.

**Favorite Movie:**  
Love and Basketball

**Favorite Hobby:**  
Volunteering at the Mission

**Favorite thing about at Menta:**  
I love that we can help each student become a productive member of their community.

## Upcoming Events

### School Events:

January 17<sup>th</sup>: Shark Tank

### NO SCHOOL:

January 21<sup>st</sup> (MLK Day)

February 15<sup>th</sup> (Institute Day-NO STUDENTS)

February 18<sup>th</sup> (President's Day)

Spring Break: March 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>

## Menta Events

This month, students will participate in the Menta-wide event "Shark Tank". At this event, students will develop a new product and "pitch it" to the judges. They will work on skills including creativity, graphic design and communication skills.