



THE MENTA GROUP® IN ARIZONA

August 2018 – January 2019



14 Programs



50 Classrooms



600 Students



33 Districts

EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO BE IN SCHOOL!



Hope for a Bright Future



A Safe Place to Learn



Opportunity to Learn New Skills



Partnering with our Community

Who We Are:

The Menta Group® is a not-for-profit organization that has provided special education services for over 30 years to Arizona students ages 5 through 21.

Our vision is to provide innovative solutions to critical problems in education and human services. We partner with parents and school districts making success a reality for special education and high-risk youth.

Mission:

To provide innovative solutions to critical problems in education and human services.

Vision:

We envision a society where all youth can be successful and are committed to making success a reality for high-risk youth.

THE MENTA GROUP® NEVER GIVES UP ON EDUCATING A CHILD.

NEW PROGRAMS IN 2018-19

Menta Academy Verde Valley



The idea of partnering with the Cottonwood Unified School District and opening the Menta Academy of Verde Valley all started after a presentation from the Menta Group to the Arizona State Education Committee in spring 2018. After several meetings with representatives from the Cottonwood Unified School District and surrounding communities,

Menta Academy Verde Valley opened their doors in August 2018. The program serves elementary students in grades 2-6.

Tempe S.E.L.F. and S.E.L.F.-A Programs



In August of 2018, The Menta Group® opened programs at Compadre Academy and McClintock High School. Tempe Vice Mayor Lauren Kuby and Council Member Jennifer Adams joined us to celebrate our opening! Programs serve special education students in grades 9-12

from the Tempe Union High School District. Working with the District has been a wonderful collaboration.

NEW PROGRAMS - Continued

Apache Junction High School



Special Education Services provided clinical support for the Apache Junction School District for the past four years. In spring 2018, the District met with the Arizona team to begin discussions on opening a classroom at the high school. The high school program opened in July and provides support to 9th - 12th grade special education students enrolled in the District.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION:

AZ PBIS Awards



Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) are utilized in all of our classroom programs. PBIS is a framework that guides data-driven decision making, implementation, and application of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices for improving academic, social/emotional

and behavioral outcomes for all students.

In fall 2018, the East and West campuses of Mesa Center for Success and Southwest Academy received Silver Awards for fidelity and implementation and Southwest Education Center won the bronze award. Campus representatives were recognized on November 8, 2018 at the 7th annual Arizona BET-C Conference.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Partnership with Arizona CASE, Arizona CEC, and SEAA



In October 2018, The Menta Group® partnered with the Arizona Council for Administrators of Special Education (CASE), Arizona Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and Special Education Administrators of Arizona (SEAA) to host a Special Education Forum. The event

allowed individuals throughout the state to ask questions and hear the political views of Kathy Hoffman (Elected Superintendent of Public Instruction) and Frank Riggs regarding special education in the state of Arizona.

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner



In November, Mesa Center for Success East and West campuses partnered with the Albertson's Foundation and Scottsdale Community College Culinary School to provide a Thanksgiving Dinner to over 140 student and family members. Additionally, more than 30 boxed meals were sent home for families to prepare and enjoy.

The event marked the 5th year that the dinner has been held. "It is a great way for staff to interact with families outside of the school day," stated Kelly Carbone, Principal of Mesa West. Over the past five years the event has been fine-tuned and has grown from hosting elementary families in a single classroom to a multi-sponsored event connecting staff with elementary and high school families.

Trauma Informed School Work Group

The trauma informed school work group, a branch of the greater ACE Consortium, is co-facilitated by Laura Wiggins, Regional Director of Clinical Services. The group includes

teachers, social workers, principals, superintendents, school psychologists and child advocates that are passionate about learning and expanding trauma informed practices in the schools of Arizona. Please email laura.wiggins@menta.com for more information.

AZCEC/AZCASE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Laura Wiggins and Aubrey Thornton will be presenting "Building Resilience Through Critical Service Learning" at the 2019 AZCEC/AZCASE annual conference on March 1, 2019. The presentation will discuss how trauma and toxic stress negatively impact social, emotional, and cognitive development. Resilience, the capacity to adapt and recover from trauma, can be promoted and strengthened in the classroom.

Raising Special Kids

Kelly Carbone, Principal of Mesa Center for Success – West Campus, was nominated to the board of Raising Special Kids in December 2018. In her role as a board member, Kelly will work to advocate for the needs of special education students throughout the state of Arizona. The organization provides support, training, and information to improve the lives of youth diagnosed with disabilities.

Student Spot Light



Axcel was one of the many students that passed through the doors of Southwest Academy. He thought that the adults in his life had given up on him. This fall, he transitioned back to a Menta classroom on the Sierra Linda campus. Menta campus staff learned that the student had an interest in sports and worked with the campus equipment manager to create opportunities for Axcel during the school day and at sports events on campus. Over the past year, Axcel has gone from a student that was not a fan of school to a well-known and well-liked student by both peers and staff. He now wears his high school jacket proudly and looks forward to graduating.

The collaboration of the Menta and Tolleson Union High School District staff made the student feel welcome and cared about from the moment that he walked onto the campus. Sometimes a simple sense of belonging and the support and belief of a team can go a long way in the growth of our students.



Project Based Learning



The Menta Group® believes in providing an Optimal Learning Environment for all students. We accomplish this through Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and differentiation of instruction. One way we incorporate UDL is through Project Based Learning where we integrate the use of technology for research.

Students then read, write, apply, create and present projects aligned with AZ College and Career Readiness Standards. One example of Project Based Learning occurs during our Annual Culture Fair. Many of our district representatives took the time see student presentations.



For more information about our programs or to schedule a tour, please contact Kathy Burwell at kathy.burwell@menta.com or visit our website: www.menta.com.