



AUTISM ACADEMY

for Education & Development

AUTISM NEWS

April 2023 Edition

April is World Autism Month!

At Autism Academy we celebrate our students and everything that makes them unique daily, but during the month of April, the world joins in. Special events and blue lighting appears in many places along with a lot of talk about how best to celebrate and support the autism community. This year, as Autism Academy prepares to finish our 10th year, we decided to ask some of our students about their thoughts and experiences.

Question: What are some of your favorite memories at Autism Academy?

Adrian: With teachers, I remember painting an Arizona sunset with Ms. Trisha. That was fun. I also like doing labs and experiments in Science. My favorite was a color changing experiment. A recent memory was helping to squeeze lemons and make lemonade with Ms. Busby. It had some seeds in it, but I learned that they can be used to grow a lemon tree! With friends, I saw one of my friends at McDonalds after school. I was surprised. I liked eating lunch with him and talking. I also remember sitting with a friend at lunch in Ms. Scott's class. When I told him exciting things like getting to level 100 in Prodigy, he would say "what?!" and be really happy for me.

Question: What makes Autism Academy different from other schools?

DTAs are great for adults with disabilities who can't work at a typical job. Their members may need extra assistance throughout the day or they may just be looking for a way to get out of the house. Whatever the reason, DTAs are able to provide a welcoming environment full of people who understand their unique needs and want to help them have a happy, fulfilled adult life. Often, members are able to find common interests through the daily activities and build friendships that can last a lifetime.

Question: What do you want to do after you graduate from high school?

Adrian: I want to go to a college like ASU. I am not sure what I want to learn or what kind of job I want to do. I do want to work after I graduate college.

Question: What would you want people to know about you?

Adrian: I am creative, happy, grateful for everything, hardworking, helpful, quiet, respectful, and curious. I am not just autistic.

Question: How do you think people can best support people with autism?

Adrian: Be accepting of all kinds of hard work. Make sure your comments are nice. Please show compassion and gratitude when you talk to us.

Thank you, Adrian for sharing your thoughts and experiences with us and for being a member of the Autism Academy community for 10 years!



AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH



ADRIAN



H·A·P·P·Y

Easter



AUTISM NEWS

April 2023 Edition

TJ is one of the first students to attend Autism Academy's Tempe campus when it opened in July 2014. After 9 years of hard work, TJ will be graduating from Autism Academy this May! TJ says that his first days at AAED made him nervous. He felt shy about meeting so many new people. After a few days, he says that his new friends really helped him to relax and be more comfortable. Read on for more of TJ's thoughts about his Autism Academy experiences:



Question: What are some of your favorite memories at Autism Academy?

I made my first friends in Mrs. Sevier's class. They helped me be more comfortable socializing. I also think the teachers have helped me with my reading. It's fun now and I use my reading to learn new words. My favorite things to read are comedy and superhero books.

Question: What makes Autism Academy different from other schools?

They help you here. Being here makes me feel normal and like I fit in. I didn't know I had autism before I came here. Being here helped me understand that I am autistic and that it's ok. After I graduate, I'm going to miss everything about school.

Question: What do you want to do after you graduate from high school?

I want to work in a restaurant as a chef. I also want to move out and live on my own.

Question: How do you think people can best support people with autism?

Don't force us to talk to you about our autism because it isn't the most important thing about us. Let us decide if we want to talk about it. Don't assume we need help. It's really frustrating and annoying when people assume I can't read something at places like restaurants.

Thank you, TJ for sharing your thoughts and experiences with us. We are excited to celebrate graduation with you!

Check back next month when we will profile a graduating student that has been with Autism Academy since our first day of school 10 years ago.

April Trivia

Trivia Time!

A small gift will be sent to the first 10 families to send the correct answer to autismnews@aaed.org.

April Question: What year did the Autism Society hold the first national Autism Acceptance/Awareness month?

Thank you to everyone who responded to the March trivia question! Prizes will be sent to everyone who responded before the end of this month, so please reach out if you have not received one by the end of next week.

March Answer: AAED was founded by the Newcomb family.



Autism News

April 2023 Edition

Parent Partnership Program

Autism Academy P3 has received a donation from a very generous parent for 2 sets of 2 loft/suite tickets to the George Strait/Chris Stapleton/Little Big Town concert on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at Cardinals/State Farm Stadium in Glendale, AZ. Each concert ticket package also includes a preferred parking pass, dinner, and beverages. The value for each concert prize package is over \$1,600.

Autism Academy P3 is raffling these 2 incredible concert ticket packages! There are only 6 shows in the US. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity for a once in a lifetime experience. There will be 2 winners, one for each concert prize package (includes 2 Loft/Suite tickets, preferred parking pass, dinner, and beverages). YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN!

For more information and to purchase raffle tickets, please use this link: <https://go.rallyup.com/p3-gstrait-cstapleton-lbt>

All proceeds from this raffle go directly back to Autism Academy P3 so that we can help support our students, staff, and school. Thank you for participating in our raffle! We truly appreciate your support.

* Previous concert raffle winners are not eligible for this raffle. *

Need more information? You can email P3 for your campus. We would love to see you there!

Tucson - p3tucson@aaed.org

West Valley - p3westvalleyaaed@gmail.com

Gilbert - p3.gilbertcampus@gmail.com

Tempe - p3tempe@aaed.org

Diamondbacks Autism Night

Come out to Chase Field on April 23 for D-backs Autism Awareness as part of many events that recognize April as National Autism Awareness Month.

Discounted tickets are available and through this special offer, a portion will be donated to Autism Academy. The first 500 tickets purchased through this offer will include a D-backs Autism Cap. Stop by the autism awareness tables around the main concourse for information on resources available in Arizona.

All families and organizations are invited to be part of a pregame recognition on the warning track. Instructions will be emailed prior to the game.

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE: fevogn.com/autismacademy2023
QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT JOHANNA IMPERIAL
EMAIL: JIMPERIAL@DBACKS.COM OR CALL 602.462.4113



A group of our students participated in the Special Olympics for multiple sports where several of our athletes won medals! Way to go!



AUTISM NEWS

April 2023 Edition

Free Concert Opportunity

Autism Academy is excited to share a free musical event with all of our students and families. Presented by the Tetra String Quartet, these free Azure Family events are fun, friendly, and engaging performances tailored to children and young adults who are on the autism spectrum or have similar challenges.

Since many with autism (or related challenges) cannot attend traditional music performances due to uncontrollable vocalizations or physical movements, the Tetra String Quartet felt a real need to create a musical environment whereby not only are such behaviors not frowned upon, but accepted and embraced.

Azure concerts are approximately one hour in length. Family members and caregivers of all ages are welcome to attend! The performance will be followed by an instrument petting zoo!

All behaviors are welcome!

The final concert in their 2022-2023 series will be on April 29 at 3:00pm at the Tempe History Museum. For more information and to register for free tickets visit tetraquartet.org/azure

Please note that this community event is not sponsored by Autism Academy. AAED staff will not be present.

Craft Idea

<https://thesoccermomblog.com/edible-silly-putty/#recipe>



Try this craft idea at home with the family where you can learn to make edible Jello slime putty!

PHOTOS FROM AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

