



August 2015 Welcome Back Edition

1929 N. Stone Ave

www.acehs.org

520-628-8316

Dear ACE Families,

We are so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning students to the start of the 2015-2016 school year. There are so many new and exciting things to share!

ACE has a new principal, Mr. Arturo Menchaca. He has many years' experience in education from teaching middle school to most recently the principal at S.T.A.R. Academy. Mr. Menchaca plans to continue and improve upon the academic improvement and growth achieved under Mr. Slauter's leadership. With Mr. Arnold Palacios' retirement, Mr. Jay Slauter now is the Executive Director of Tucson Youth Development and Superintendent of Schools. Congrats to Mr. Slauter and Welcome Mr. Menchaca!

There are have been a few other changes! We have teacher changes, classroom changes, new rules for hats and phones, and a new assessment tool to help teachers improve your student's knowledge in Math, Science, English and Civics. In fact, there are just so many new and exciting things going on at ACE, it just can't be done in a monthly newsletter! So please visit the newly improved school website at www.acehs.org for updates and new information throughout the school year.

Thank you for choosing ACE Charter High School for your student and feel free to contact us at 520-628-8316.

ACE Administration, Teachers and Staff

Upcoming Events

August 17

Service Learning Morning

August 19 - 21

District Benchmark Pretesting

September 7

No School – Labor Day

Service Learning Morning

Students will have the opportunity to choose from a number of activities and guest speakers on the morning of August 17th. Activities will range from motivational speakers, the Army, to making beaded bracelets that will be used to fundraise for animal rescues by the Beading Divas and Silver Sea Jewelry. These engaging activities will help to involve our students more in the community, to inspire them to set their goals high and have a successful school year. We thank in advance our community member guests for their participation.



Aquaponics Lab feeds students organic vegetables and herbs!

Thanks to a grant from the Dupree Family Foundation, the Aquaponics Lab was built and has helped to feed students fresh organic vegetables and herbs. Mrs. Emily Ruddick managed the aquaponics gardens at ACE over the summer and included it into her Summer Youth Employment Program learning activities. Students helped to plant basil, lettuces, bok choy and other herbs. In just 15 days, the produce was ready to harvest! Aquaponics takes up less space, and uses less water than traditional soil gardening. Yet aquaponics produces organic food very quickly and less expensively as it needs no added fertilizers thanks to the fish. The roots being in water also allows for plants that normally cannot be grown during the summer in Tucson such as lettuces. The Aquaponics Lab will be integrated into the Community & Culture program and the Science curriculums at ACE this year. Mrs. Ruddick, Mr. Stienke, and Ms. O'Dell are very excited to work together to help teach our students plant biology, chemistry, environmental science, nutrition, and food science. The best part is that at the end of the lesson, you might get to eat a yummy salad, or have some fresh salsa. ☺

TEACHERS!

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Chester Kingsbury to ACE. He will be teaching Senior English, with a focus on Literature and Writing. Mr. Kingsbury will also be teaching Government and Economics.

Mr. Tom Rautert is now the Student Services Director. He will handle counseling/ discipline issues. Mr. Rautert will begin meeting with Seniors beginning this week to help them develop Graduation and Credit Recovery Plans. He will also offering electives for two periods a day.

Former teacher, Mr. Tim Kennedy has taken a new positron on the program side of Tucson Youth Development. He will be recruiting out of school youth, help get them into career training, employment or back in school. We wish Mr. Kennedy success in this exciting new opportunity.

Ms. Jennifer O'Dell is happy to return to the science classroom. She will be offering two periods of Earth Science and Independent Science Study, in addition to her duties as Assistant Principal for Curriculum & Instruction. Ms. O'Dell is excited to have the new Watershed and Aquaponics labs to use when teaching science at ACE this year, and to continuing helping all the teachers provide excellent instruction to our students.



Parental Involvement: PowerSchool Parent and Student Login Information

Despite many changes over recent years in what the state, schools or teachers think makes for a successful student, one thing has never changed; **parent involvement is crucial to student success.**

ACE Charter use the PowerSchool Gradebook program to manage student information such as grades and schedules. Teachers take attendance each period, update grades weekly and review all student progress and grades every three weeks. This online system is also available wherever there is internet and has an app for your smart phone. The school website, www.acehs.org, has a PowerSchool link at the bottom of the page for quick access.

At ACE, we know how hard it can be to sometimes to attend activities given work schedules, younger siblings and transportation issues. But all parents can stay involved by going online to the PowerSchool website or using the mobile app at least weekly to check your student's grades and attendance. Once parents sign up for access, they can set the program up to automatically email grades and other information as often as wanted.

Included in the newsletter is a letter indicating how to access your PowerSchool Parent Login and set up your account. Parents can also call the Front Office at 520-628-8316 and ask for their PowerSchool username and password. Students also have a PowerSchool login, which is their regular student ID number and password provided on their initial schedule.

During our upcoming Parent Night and Title I meeting, ACE will have staff on hand to help parents set up their PowerSchool logins if needed. At that time, parents can also be given a parent login (by providing an email address) to the OdysseyWare (OW) system if your student uses it in their classes. Parents can see the lesson, quiz and other OW grades directly. Many teachers use an OW Unit Grade in the PowerSchool Gradebook program, but parents can monitor the individual activity grades if needed.

We encourage ACE parents and guardians to stay regularly involved with your student's attendance and progress. ACE Administration will be supporting parents and teachers by meeting with students who are not making adequate progress. Parents will be contacted and asked to have a Parent Conference if students become at risk. We thank you all the parent for your overwhelming support already this year and look forward to continuing to help our parents support their student's success and progress towards graduation and their high school diploma!

Thinking Maps

Thinking Maps are 8 visual patterns designed for students to use to learn and retain information. Thinking Maps provide a common language for teachers and students, can be used in all content areas by all grade levels, and help students to understand complex topics. All ACE teachers use Thinking Maps as part of their class activities, for note taking, brainstorming, classifying and many more applications. Most students have already been introduced to the Circle Map, a map used to brainstorm or define in context. Mrs. Ruddick had students define a “perfect school year, and Ms. O’Dell used a Circle Map to brainstorm “how to think like Scientist” in Earth Science. Students will continue to learn and use the 8 Thinking Maps in all their classes to help improve their understanding, increase critical thinking skills and find more success in school.

National School Lunch Program Now Includes Breakfast!

ACE started the school lunch program last year and was able to provide every student with a free, healthy lunch every day. This year we are pleased to announce that ACE has a new catering service and now provides a “grab and go” breakfast during Zero hour each morning in the Multipurpose Room. In order for this program to continue to be free for all students, all parents must complete the “Application for Free and Reduced Meals” and return it to Ms. Marie Mungary, the Wellness and Family Resources Coordinator. This form allows us to verify that the majority of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch, and that allow us to continue to provide free meals for all. If you have not completed the Application, please do so as soon as possible. Sun Tran Reduced Fare Applications are also required in order for the school to provide free bus passes to students. If Parents/Guardians need help completing the forms or need more info, please call Ms. Mungary.

SEEKING STUDENTS WHO WANT TO SUCCEED AND GRAUDAUTE HIGH SCHOOL!

ACE and Youthworks Charter High Schools are looking for a few more good students! If an ACE student refers a new student to our school, after the 10 day probationary period is over that student and the ACE student who referred will receive a \$50 gift card to Target. Ask those new potential students to call the school and schedule their enrollment interview with Mr. Menchaca.
