



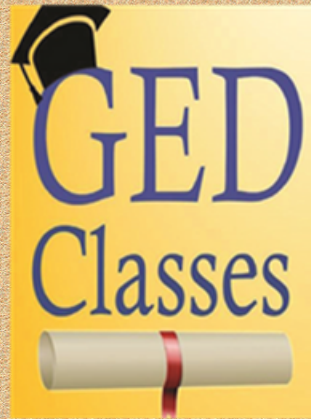
VIEWS

FROM JACKSON STREET

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"If there is to be progress, positive change is more than likely necessary."

-Dr. Gene C. Blue



The Stay in School initiative is intended to improve high school graduation rates for students. The GED program will help prepare students for success through high school level education and better their graduation as well as future career success. 96% of the students who take the GED test have been successful due to this course. Full scholarships are available for dedicated students. Come into the office to fill out an application and register for this class.

COMING IN 2023

ARIZONA OIC GAP PROGRAM



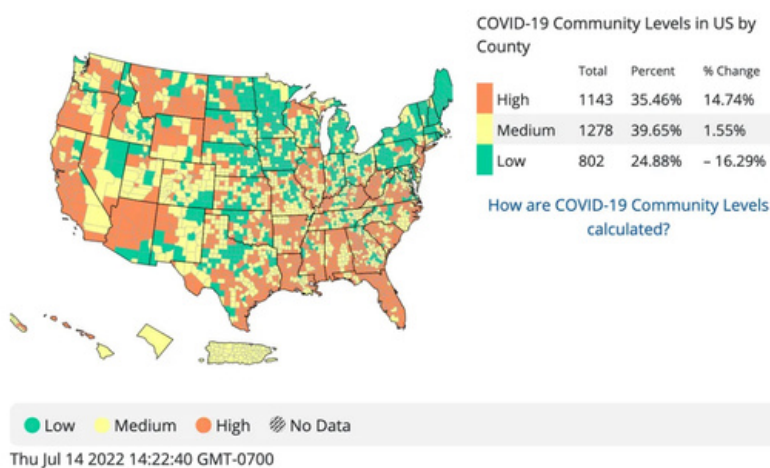
The GAP Academy provides academic enrichment for youth in grades K through 8 to address the severe loss in education attainment for some youth due to the pandemic. The GAP Program will be held 1st & 3rd Saturday from 9am to 12pm.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATIONS

There has been confusion and misunderstandings about vaccines. But vaccinations are an important part of family and public health. Vaccines prevent the spread of contagious, dangerous, and deadly diseases. These include measles, polio, mumps, chicken pox, whooping cough, diphtheria, and HPV. A vaccine (or immunization) is a way to build your body's natural immunity to a disease before you get sick. This keeps you from getting and spreading the disease. For most vaccines, a weakened form of the disease germ is injected into your body. This is usually done with a shot in the leg or arm. Your body detects the invading germs (antigens) and produces antibodies to fight them. Those antibodies then stay in your body for a long time. In many cases, they stay for the rest of your life. If you're ever exposed to the disease again, your body will fight it off without you ever getting the disease. Everyone needs vaccines. They are recommended for infants, children, teenagers, and adults. There are widely accepted immunization schedules available. They list what vaccines are needed, and at what age they should be given. Most vaccines are given to children. It's recommended they receive 14 different vaccines by their 6th birthday. Some of these come in a series of shots. Some vaccines are combined so they can be given together with fewer shots. Vaccines are safe. The benefits of their use far outweigh any risks of side effects.

The CDC's "community level" recommendations, updated on Thursday, say residents of 10 Arizona counties should be wearing well-fitting masks indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status or individual risk, including in K-12 schools and other community settings. The guidance is updated weekly and ranks counties as low, medium and high, or green, yellow and orange. The Arizona counties designated as "high," where masks are recommended, are Maricopa, Pinal, Apache, Coconino, Gila, La Paz, Mohave, Navajo, Yavapai and Yuma. Greenlee and Santa Cruz are "medium," and Pima, Graham and Cochise are "low."

COVID-19 Community Levels of All Counties in US



Find COVID-19 Vaccines or Boosters Near You

Find a COVID-19 vaccine or booster near you: Search vaccines.gov, text your ZIP code to 438829, or call [1-800-232-0233](tel:1-800-232-0233).

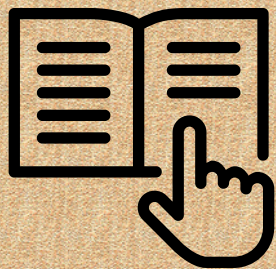
There are several other ways you can look for vaccination providers near you in the United States.

- Ask your doctor, pharmacist, or community health center if they provide vaccines.
- Contact your [state health department](#) to find additional vaccination locations in the area.
- Check your local pharmacy's website to see if vaccination appointments are available.

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, Arizona OIC relies on donations, private sector funding, and special events for its operations. While grants were available when Arizona OIC was founded many years ago, over the past several decades public funding and grants have been disappearing. As a result, Arizona OIC has been actively developing its private sector relationships and partnerships, whereby companies rely on Arizona OIC to train their entry-level workforce.

If your organization is interested in becoming involved as a Corporate Sponsor of OIC, please contact us at gene.blue@azoic.org or contact our office at 605-513-8311.

JULY 2022



RESOURCES



Youth Taking Charge
YTC Youth Taking Charge
RESISTANCE STRATEGIES
 Best Tips and Practices To Resist Taking Harmful Substances

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WALK AWAY
 If you see pills or other drugs and alcohol at a party just leave. That way you won't have to worry about someone asking you to use.

CHANGE SUBJECT
 "Hey, have you guys seen the new Batman movie?"

GIVE AN EXCUSE OR A REASON
 "I have asthma and I can't take anything because I could stop breathing"

IGNORE IT
 Pretend like you don't hear the person and avoid eye contact with them; Keep talking to someone else.

MAKE A JOKE
 "If I took those, you'd be wiping drool off my face all night long"

OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE
 "Let's go rent the new Halo game instead. I heard it's awesome"

HANG WITH OTHERS WHO CHOSE NOT TO USE
 Surround yourself with friends who don't use drugs or alcohol - they will never pressure you to use and they will have your back if others try to get you to use.

YTC MISSION
 To promote a trauma informed community that embodies every aspect of health and wellness in teens and young adults

AVOID PROBLEM SITUATIONS
 If you heard there will be pills or other drugs and alcohol at party, just don't go.

OUR GOALS
 YTC's goal is to build a better and safer community for teens and young adults in Maricopa County

SAY "NO" AND REPEAT IT IF THEY KEEP PUSHING

CONTACT US
 700 E. Jefferson Street
 STE 200 Phoenix, AZ 85034
 (602) 253-6904
heaaloaz@gmail.com
<https://heaaloaz.org/youth-leadership>

SAFETY FIRST Prevent The Worst, Put Safety First!

Youth Taking Charge
YTC
HEAAL
TCDC

kinship CHILDREN in care

Our program is designed to assist client families become strong, healthy and whole.

Thought you were done raising your kids? Experiencing difficulties raising grandchildren in your "seasoned years"? Looking to refine your parenting skills?

We offer assistance and education through case management; parent and community workshops, resources and support.

Tanner Community Development Corporation
 602.253.6904 x211
 700 E. Jefferson St., Suite 200
 Phoenix, AZ 85034



From the Arizona Informant

Ways Parents Can Raise Kind, Caring Children

FAMILY FEATURES

At some point, many parents will likely find themselves encouraging their children to "be kind" or "be friendly." While they lead with the best of intentions, nearly all parents will worry about whether their child is kind to others when adults are not around.

"We often encourage children to be friends with everyone, but that's unrealistic," said Carter Peters from KinderCare's Inclusion Services team. "We don't have to be friends with everyone, but we do need to be friendly with everyone. When children learn to respect everyone, even those who don't like, they help create a kinder, more welcoming community."

While children are generally kind, it's possible they might internalize so-

cial messages that equate kindness with weakness. With a little help, children can develop a sense of empathy, which can help them have positive interactions with others whether they're on the playground, in the classroom or at home.

Consider these three ways parents can encourage empathy:

1. **Try a new twist on "what did you do today?"** Find a consistent time during the day - at pick up, during dinner or before bedtime - to ask your child, "How did you help someone today?" or "How were you kind to someone today?" Be sure to offer your own examples from your day, too. This helps your child understand the connection between his or her actions and kindness to others. It also opens the



conversation for you and your child to discuss missed opportunities to show kindness, how you could both do better next time and how you and your child could show kindness in the future.

2. **Intentionally call out acts of kindness.** Go beyond a simple "thank you" and be specific about why the action was kind: "That was so kind of you to clear the table after dinner. Your help made cleanup go faster. I appreciate that." Don't forget to use this same technique with other family members, too. Ask your child what compliments he or she likes to hear and encourage him or her to do the same for others. This teaches empathy and encourages children to treat others the way they want to be treated.

continued on page 14



KIND

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3. **Build a toolbox of responses for tough situations.** First, help your child build emotional literacy skills by helping him or her learn to identify and name feelings. Then work together to identify appropriate expressions of those feelings.

"Children need to learn they can express big emotions, like frustration or anger, without taking those feelings out on others," Peters said.

Some healthy ways to react to emotional moments could be to find a quiet place to calm down, talk with a trusted adult like a teacher, squeeze

fasts or name the feeling: "I'm so angry right now."

The ability to think and react rationally diminishes when angry, so practicing potential responses while in a calm, low-stress state is essential to helping children learn to apply those responses when they're upset. Having this toolbox of responses to rely on also gives children the autonomy of deciding how best to respond to an emotionally difficult situation, which can lead to a sense of empowerment when they realize they chose to act kindly despite their emotions.

For more tips about raising kind and caring children, visit kindercare.com.

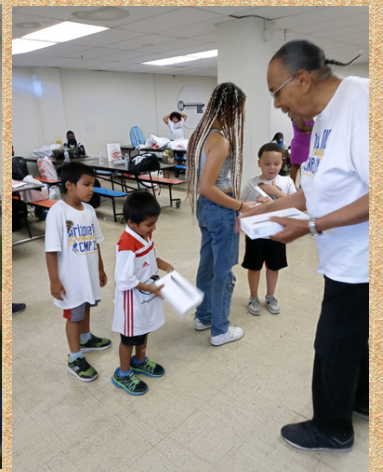
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Arizona Dream Summer Camp Comes to an End

Az OIC would like to thank the businesses listed below for their contributions in making the program a success.



Thank you

Ebony House-CareTransit-Best Buy-Famous Footwear-Footlocker-Journeys-Chase Bank-Summer Smiles, NDA & Colgate Sponsored by Delta Dental of Arizona

JULY 2022

Did you stop by the Az OIC table at the Valley of the Sun Juneteenth celebration? Did you take a spin on the 360 video booth? If you enjoyed yourself and would like more information on renting a video booth for your next event, contact Az Diamond Events for rental information.



Az OIC is serving as a polling place. Stop by to vote in person or drop off your ballot.



ELECTION CALENDAR		
2022 AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION		
June 18 Military and Overseas Ballots Mailed	July 5 Voter Registration Deadline	July 6 Ballots Mailed, Drop Boxes Available
July 22 Last Day to Request a Replacement Ballot in the Mail	July 26 Last Day to Mail Back Your Ballot	August 2 Election Day!

BeBallotReady.Vote



Are you a member or leader of a local faith-based organization that would like us to share your upcoming news and events? Contact us today! Arizona OIC works closely with many local faith organizations that help accomplish and support our mission to **help people help themselves**.

We value our partnerships with organizations of many different backgrounds. Send us your information by contacting us.

gene.blue@azoic.org or call our office at 602-513-8311



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