

Center Point Day Program

April 2024

Director's Corner

April is finally here, and spring is in full swing! As we near the end of the school year, it's important to stay focused and finish strong. This month, the Center Point students will focus on important Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) topics. Responsible Decision-Making is an essential skill that helps students make informed choices that positively impact their lives and those around them. Stress Awareness is also vital to understanding the various stresses that students may experience and learning how to manage them effectively. Finally, acceptance plays a crucial role in fostering kindness, empathy and respect for individual differences in our community. Let's continue to support our students' growth in these areas and promote a positive school culture.

Important Dates:

- 🌸 Apr. 1 - Virtual Makeup Day
- 🌸 Apr. 11 - Adventure Day
- 🌸 Apr. 22-30 - PSSA Testing
- 🌸 Apr. 23 - Virtual Instruction
- 🌸 Apr. 29 - Reward Day

SEL Theme: Responsible Decision-Making
Awareness Month: World Autism Acceptance and Stress Awareness
Focus: Acceptance, Decision-Making and Stress Management



AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH



Build up... or be quiet!

Diakon Youth Services has made arrangements to sell a variety of shirts and sweatshirts that reflect one of our program emphases on being positive: #BBQ, or Build Up or Be Quiet! These shirts were provided last year for students and staff members and were a big hit, with others more recently asking how they could obtain one.

As a result, we have arranged with Artistic Imprints for the items, which will be shipped directly to you at no extra costs. All varieties and costs can be found at the storefront link below. And the best thing is that all proceeds directly benefit the programs of Diakon Youth Services.



http://artisticimprints.3dcartstores.com/Diakon-BBQ_c_811.html



Special Recognition

April 14 is National Gardening Day. We want to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to our horticulture teacher, Kim Patten, for all the hard work and dedication that she has shown towards our program. Her expertise in teaching the subject has been invaluable in helping our students develop a love and appreciation for nature. It is evident that Kim has a passion for this field, and her enthusiasm has inspired many students in the Horticulture Vocation. We are grateful for Kim's tireless efforts in ensuring our students receive a well-rounded education with practical and hands-on learning experiences. Thank you for being an exceptional instructor who goes above and beyond to educate and encourage our students.



Success Story

One of our students

When I first attended Diakon, I judged the program before experiencing it. So, like many students/children with behavioral issues, I acted out. I had a big fighting problem; I was consumed in drama. Also, I was disrespectful, problematic, violent and filled with explosive anger. That was me who walked through the doors of Diakon two years ago. Now, I am all caught up with the credits that I needed to be able to graduate this year. I've learned to walk away from confrontation. I've learned how normal people communicate without being violent. I learned that where I've come from and what I've been through doesn't define me or make me any less than anyone else. I learned that I was never a bad kid; I just made bad choices. Diakon taught me not to give up on myself just because others had given up on me. I've learned accountability and how to be more respectful. There are things that might offend people, and it's important to be careful about what you're saying. I've learned things I never even thought I cared about. I was used to my "I don't care" attitude, and I felt like nobody cared about me, so why should I care about anybody? The Center Point / Diakon experience isn't for the weak; you'll have your best moments and your bad moments, times where you can't stop laughing, and times where you're just over it emotionally. But at the end of the day, we're all here to make progress and become a better version of ourselves. Even the staff are still growing. Without Diakon, I'd be the same angry, violent, and disrespectful person who struggled to make poor choices. But here I am in my senior year, getting ready to walk the stage at graduation, thanks to credit recovery and the staff at Diakon who pushed me to do the best of my ability. I am thankful for the friends I've met along the way; they all made it easier to be here through this experience. I am glad to say I am just one of the amazingly successful students who've walked into Center Point and made it the place it is today.

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