



Zaniez, Farm Trade School, Revolutionizes Education with Outdoor Classrooms Tailored for Autism Spectrum Learners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wittmann, AZ - August 28, 2025

Zaniez, a pioneering farm trade school dedicated to empowering children and adults on the autism spectrum, today announces its innovative approach to learning environments, featuring a blend of outdoor and convertible classrooms designed to foster well-being, sensory balance, and practical skills. As a farm-based trade school, Zaniez prioritizes student-centered education, integrating nature into every aspect of its curriculum to address the unique needs of its community. Zaniez is presently fundraising to open this January in Wittmann, Arizona.

At the heart of Zaniez classroom philosophy are eight classrooms, four of which are fully outdoor spaces immersed in the natural farm setting. The remaining four are convertible, each with an adjacent outdoor area that allows learners to seamlessly transition between indoor and outdoor environments based on their preferences and needs. This flexible model ensures that students who thrive in nature can spend their learning time outside, promoting a personalized educational experience.

Research highlights the profound benefits of outdoor classrooms for both learning and physical health. Compared to traditional indoor settings, outdoor learning enhances student engagement, cognitive development, and retention through hands-on, experiential activities. Physically, time spent in nature increases activity levels, improves vitamin D absorption, boosts immune function, and supports better sleep and overall resiliency. These advantages stand in stark contrast to enclosed indoor classrooms, where limited movement and artificial lighting can contribute to sedentary behavior and higher stress levels.

For individuals on the autism spectrum, the benefits are even more transformative. Outdoor environments provide a natural balance that can help regulate sensory issues, reducing overload from artificial stimuli like bright lights or echoing rooms. Nature exposure supports emotional regulation, decreases anxiety, and improves focus, while activities like gardening or animal care enhance social skills, motor development, and self-confidence. Studies show that nature-based interventions lead to better holistic outcomes, including reduced stress and increased well-being for autistic children and adults.



The launch of Zaniez, Farm Trade School for Autistic Families, represents a revolutionary shift in education for the autism community, placing student well-being at the forefront. Unlike conventional trade schools, Zaniez integrates farm-based vocational training—such as sustainable agriculture and animal husbandry—with therapeutic outdoor elements, creating a supportive ecosystem that nurtures personal growth, independence, and community connection. This student-first philosophy addresses the often-overlooked needs of spectrum learners, offering a pathway to fulfilling lives through balanced, nature-infused education.

“The benefits of outdoor classrooms can no longer be ignored, especially as it relates to those on the autism spectrum that tend to have sensory issues that may be controlled by simply connecting with nature outside. We strive to provide the balance that our families need and desire. We look forward to sharing the Zaniez philosophy and school with whomever is receptive and will welcome interested parties to experience Zaniez outdoor classrooms,” said Dana Shafman, founder of Zaniez.

Zaniez invites educators, families, and advocates to experience its outdoor classrooms firsthand. For more information, visit www.ZaniezKids.com or contact Zaniez via email at ZaniezKids@gmail.com.

About Zaniez

Zaniez is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) trade school in Arizona dedicated to empowering individuals with ASD through farm-based vocational training and life skills education. With phased openings in 2026, Zaniez aims to serve children (3-12), teens (13-18), and adults (19+) in Arizona, fostering independence and rewarding careers. Zaniez (ZaniezKids.com) is a pioneering nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting autism spectrum families through farm-based trade education, vocational programs, and independent living initiatives. Focused on holistic development, Zaniez empowers individuals on the spectrum to thrive in adulthood with practical skills and community integration.

Media Contact:

Sandra Shafman
Zaniez Administrator
ZaniezKids@gmail.com
Phone (480) 600-2294

###

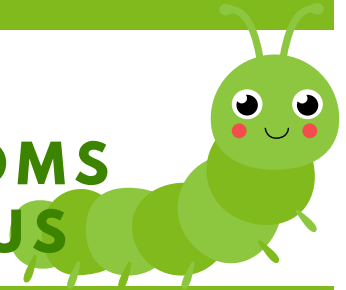


ZANIEZ

launch schedule

OPENING JANUARY 2026

- AUTISTIC CHILDREN AGES 3 - 12
- 8 INDOOR/OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS
- FUNDAMENTAL LIFE SKILLS FOCUS



OPENING SUMMER 2026

- AUTISTIC CHILDREN AGES 13 - 18
- 8 INDOOR/OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS
- MENTORSHIP & BUSINESS BUILDING



OPENING FALL 2026

- AUTISTIC ADULTS AGES 19+
- INDEPENDENT LIFE SKILLS
- WORK STUDY + CAREER LAUNCH





ZANIEZ

FARM TRADE SCHOOL



MUSIC



GARDENING



ART



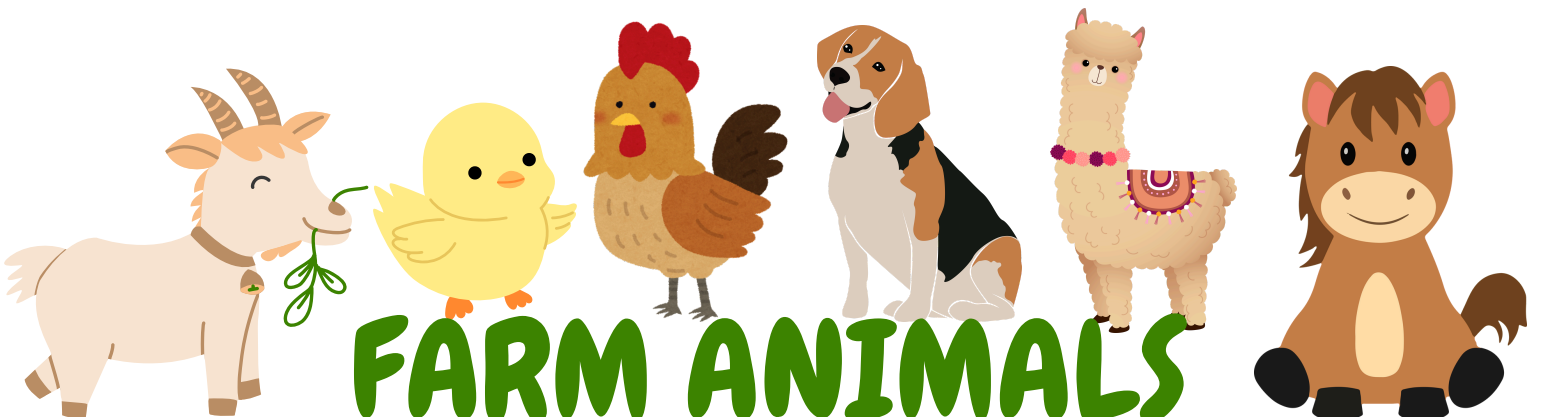
WOOD SHOP



SCIENCE



COOKING



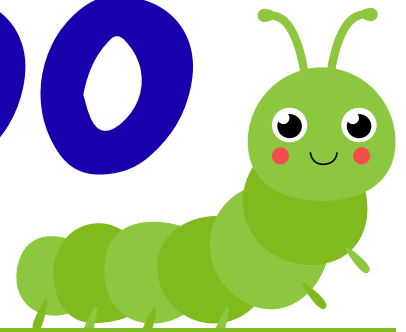
FARM ANIMALS



ZANIEZ

donation drive *Fundraiser*

\$500,000 GOAL



OPENING JANUARY 2026

FARM
TRADE
SCHOOL
FOR
SPECTRUM
FAMILIES

- ALL DAY TRADE SCHOOL
- NO CHARGE FOR STUDENTS
- FOCUS ON INDEPENDENCE
- WORK STUDY PROGRAMS
- ADULT WORK PROGRAMS
- FAMILY NIGHTS + SUPPORT

GIVESENDGO.COM/ZANIEZ
ZANIEZKIDS.COM (480) 600-2294