



Zaniez Pioneers Equestrian Therapy at Innovative Farm Trade School to Empower Students with Autism

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Zaniez, a visionary trade school dedicated to empowering individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), proudly announces the adoption of equestrian therapy as the cornerstone of its therapeutic offerings at the forthcoming Zaniez Farm Trade School (planned to open January 2026). This innovative facility will combine vocational training with the transformative power of equine-assisted therapy, creating a nurturing environment where students with autism can thrive physically, emotionally, and socially. The goal is always independence to be empowered to live life to the fullest for Zaniez students.

Equestrian therapy, also known as hippotherapy, harnesses the unique bond between humans and horses to foster remarkable improvements in communication, social interaction, motor skills, and confidence for individuals with autism. As highlighted in a recent article from Neurolaunch, “The gentle sway of a horse’s back became the key that unlocked speech for a nonverbal child... encapsulating the transformative power of equestrian therapy for children on the autism spectrum.” At Zaniez, this proven approach will be integrated into a holistic curriculum designed to unlock each student’s potential.

Zaniez “Farm Trade School” will provide a unique blend of hands-on vocational training and therapeutic interventions. Students will engage in farm-based activities while participating in equestrian therapy sessions. These sessions will leverage the rhythmic movement of horses to stimulate sensory processing, enhance motor coordination, and foster social connections—key areas where individuals with autism often face challenges. The article notes, “Research studies have shown that therapeutic horseback riding can lead to improvements in social functioning, motor skills, and even verbal communication in children with autism.” Zaniez is committed to translating these benefits into real-world outcomes for its students. We also see a future business for our students to launch for peers.

“Our mission at Zaniez is to celebrate autistic families and provide innovative pathways for individuals with autism to lead fulfilling, independent lives,” said Dana Shafman, Founder of Zaniez and a dedicated Spectrum Mom. “By integrating equestrian therapy into our farm trade school, we’re creating a space where students can build skills, confidence, and connections in an environment that feels like home. Horses are non-judgmental partners who inspire breakthroughs, and we’re thrilled to bring this magic to our students.” Zaniez will feature homelike indoor/outdoor facilities, including stables for therapy horses, accessible riding arenas, and vocational training areas focused on agriculture and trade skills.



Zaniez invites the community, donors, and partners to join in this transformative journey. Opportunities for collaboration, sponsorship, and support are available to help bring this vision to life. For more information about Zaniez, the revolutionary Farm Trade School for autism spectrum families, or how to get involved, visit Zaniez.com or contact 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.

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