



Welcome to Banner Academy

Banner Academy is a nationally accredited private school in Tempe, Arizona, with a long history of providing education to children in grades 4-12 with autism spectrum disorder, as well as other emotional and learning disabilities.

The school offers small classes taught by highly qualified faculty who assess and then create individualized curriculum to help students reach their full academic potential.

Families and school districts in the Metropolitan Phoenix area choose Banner Academy because of our success with increasing academic and social skills, as well as reintegrating students into their home schools.

Banner Academy has been accredited by Cognia since 1986 and was the first special needs school accredited in Arizona. The school also meets the standards/criteria set forth by The Arizona State Department of Education as an approved Private Day School for students with special needs.

Our Philosophy

At Banner Academy, we believe that every student has the capacity to learn, grow and thrive – academically, socially and emotionally.

We understand that emotional safety and a strong sense of belonging are critical for academic success. Our approach centers on building trusting relationships, fostering self-awareness, and teaching emotional regulation, communication skills and resilience. We integrate evidence-based social-emotional learning (SEL) into all aspects of our day, ensuring that each student is seen, valued, and supported.

Ultimately, we believe that when social-emotional needs are met, academic learning deepens – and when students feel safe and connected, they can unlock their full potential.

Banner Academy

1410 W. 10th Pl.
Tempe, AZ 85281

More Information Contact

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Student Profile

Students that experience academic, social and emotional challenges thrive in our small, personal, and therapeutic environment. We support students facing these challenges:

- Learning disabilities
- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), including high- functioning autism
- Attention deficits (ADD and ADHD)
- Emotional disabilities
- Mood disorders
- Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)
- School and social phobias
- Depression and anxiety
- Pervasive Developmental Disorders-POD-NOS (not otherwise specified)

Facility/Staff

At the heart of our school is our staff who function as a true collaborative Learning Team (CLT) – a dedicated staff that works together with intention, reflection, and shared responsibility.

All of our teachers hold Arizona Department of Education certifications in special education or core content areas including English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. This ensures that student receive high-quality, standards-based instruction that is both rigorous and accessible.

Our Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) provides both group and individual sessions focusing on coping strategies, emotional regulation and mental wellness. This consistent proactive support helps students manage challenges, build emotional strength, and stay connected to their learning.

Social Skills/Transitions

Social skills development and Transitions are woven into the fabric of our curriculum. We that learning how to interact effectively with others, manage life changes, and prepare for future educational or vocational pathways is just as important as academic growth. Through targeted instruction, real-life practice, and individualized support, we help students build the confidence and skills they need for long-term success.

Lessons include:

- Career exploration
- Identifying social norms in various settings
- Body language
- Social cues
- Goal setting
- Current events
- Character building education
- Bullying
- Job interview techniques
- Manners and etiquette
- Self-esteem
- Empathy for others
- Assertiveness
- Honesty
- Conflict resolution
- Handling teen pressures

Music Therapy

We offer a dynamic, weekly music therapy program with group options including ukulele, guitar, rock band, and beat-making. These experiences allow student to learn or strengthen skills on an instrument, promote positive coping strategies, collaborate with peers, and increase self-confidence through creative expression. Music becomes not only a therapeutic outlet, but a meaningful way for students to connect, express themselves, and build new skills.

Animal Therapy

Students have the opportunity to interact with care for our school animal friends, which include a variety of mammals and reptiles. Through this unique experience, student learn responsibility, empathy, and gentleness, while also benefiting from the calming, therapeutic presence that animals provide.

School Calendar

Banner Academy follows a modified public-school calendar. Student hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. We also offer a summer school program and ESY (extended school year) services are available for qualifying students.