

AVC Alternative School

(AVCAS)

A program for students in grades 6 - 12 experiencing emotional, learning and behavioral difficulties.

Working Together for LASTING RESULTS

We work with our member districts to provide:

- a small therapeutic school environment for special education students in grades 6 through 12
- clinical, instructional, behavioral and environmental supports to make lasting change in the lives of children with emotional disabilities
- a framework that fosters long-term success through engagement and meaningful instruction to reduce the impact of social/emotional struggles in academic settings
- support for students and families by engaging and connecting them with their community to promote independence and sustainable progress
- a structured setting with predictable and meaningful incentives and deterrents for better and lasting outcomes

Students make progress when they feel **SAFE**, **VALUED**, **CONNECTED** to adults, **ENGAGED** in activities, and adequately **CHALLENGED**.



Our therapeutic-day school offers academic rigor and clinical services to middle school- and high school-age students who are not making progress in a traditional school setting. With an emphasis on academics, clinical services, expressive arts, vocational supports and high-interest electives, our school supports students in learning the skills necessary to achieve their goals.

- Small Universal Design for Learning instructional groups
- Master's level Teachers and Clinicians
- Integration of academics, expressive therapy and transition skills engage and challenge
- Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS) framework

Discover the opportunities for all learners through our programs and services

High quality and rigorous academics are at the core of all AVCAS programs and services. We put an emphasis on a skills-building approach so that each individual student is engaged and challenged appropriately. We utilize expressive arts, music therapy and other high interest activities such as horseback riding, a motor bike program, Project Adventure, membership to the YMCA, and basketball teams to engage students. Clinical services are available in both group and individual settings and we have a school psychologist and a behavior specialist on staff. Each student's individual goals are monitored with data.

Academics

Teachers employ a variety of strategies using the Principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), embedded in the learning process while individualizing instruction according to each student's IEP.

Speech & Language Services

Our speech and language services include: expressive and receptive skills, written language and pragmatics and are delivered in a variety of contexts.

Specialized Reading Instruction

Specialized reading instruction is available for those students whose IEP identifies goals in this area.

Electives

AVCAS provides a wide range of elective courses that are designed to further engage students in developing skills, interests, and hobbies that also align to the curriculum frameworks.

- Art
- Media
- Language Arts
- Social Sciences
- Math/Science
- Robotics and Theater
- P.E./Health
- Life Skills and Transitional Services

Clinical Services

Our clinical team designs clinical instruction using cognitive behavior therapy including DBT skills-based groups and evidence-based practices that best meet the social and emotional needs of individual students.

Clinicians provide continuous therapeutic support to assist students in:

- Weekly counseling sessions
- Evidenced-based clinical practices such as CBT, DBT, and Social Thinking
- Behavior practices rooted in ABA and PBIS, and academic design using UDL

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NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Everyday is a new opportunity to support our students by offering a chance to build their skills, confidence and engage in academic successes. Everyday is an opportunity to be better than the day before. We are proud of our students every day for coming to school and embarking on the work that needs to be done to reach their goals. We believe that

every student possesses unique strengths and talents, and it is our work to bring out the best in each and every individual. We provide a culture where students can safely explore and try new activities and access the education they deserve.

- Shannon VanderSwaagh
Director of Therapeutic Programs



Student work from Spring Art Show.

Did you KNOW?

AVCAS offers many unique services such as:

- Expressive therapies and instruction in art, theater and music
- Proactive approach to positive behavioral intervention
- Clinical supports to teach healthy coping skills they can use in school and at home
- Experienced clinicians that are on hand to offer consistent communication with families, guardians and treatment providers
- Educational opportunities and resources that match each student's individual needs

Community-Based EXPERIENCES are VITAL to the LONG-TERM SUCCESS of our students when they leave AVCAS as adults.

Our STAFF is the CORNERSTONE of our success

Our dedicated staff is here to help your students. All of our teachers are graduate level, state-licensed, special educators or content teachers. Additionally, all of our clinical staff are graduate-level, state-licensed clinicians. We employ a full-time School Psychologist, Behavior Specialist and a Consulting Psychiatrist. You can rest assured that your child is in the care of a qualified team of passionate, caring adults.

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Behavioral Support Services


We use a PBIS framework to design systems and practice skills that increase expected behaviors and decrease maladaptive behaviors.

- Data based behavior interventions
- Crisis intervention and prevention
- Weekly multidisciplinary team meetings
- Life skills
- Collaboration with parents and service providers
- Timeout
- Check Ins

We help CONNECT families and students to the community to ENGAGE, SUPPORT, and promote INDEPENDENCE to increase the sustainability of progress.



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