

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Archway Schools Receive National Recognition as a School of Excellence

One of five private special education schools to receive honor in South Jersey

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ATCO, NEW JERSEY (July 12, 2018) – The National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASET) has named The Archway Schools as a 2018-2019 School of Excellence. This is the fifth consecutive year The Archway Schools has received this award. Being selected as a NASET School for Excellence is the highest level of recognition a private education school can achieve through their professional association. This year, the honor was bestowed upon 102 private special education schools throughout the United States that met rigorous professional criteria and demonstrated truly exceptional dedication, commitment and achievement in the field of special education. The Archway Schools are one of nineteen schools in the state of New Jersey and one of five schools in South Jersey who received this year's NASET award.

The Archway Schools are located around a lake at Archway Programs' (nonprofit) headquarters in Atco. Since the early 1960s, the schools have been providing numerous educational programs and services, serving special needs children, teens and young adults throughout New Jersey, between the ages of three and twenty-one. The Archway Schools use a successful model unique to each program, providing children and young adults with a safe, structured and compassionate atmosphere as staff discovers and builds on each student's strengths to overcome barriers, teaching coping and social skills. The Archway Schools offer a diversified approach to public school districts seeking out-of-district placement for students experiencing multiple, behavioral and autistic disabilities. This includes providing students with the skills needed to successfully transition from school to adult life. Students at the Archway Schools participate in the Career Education Program which provides opportunities to learn in the classroom and on-the-job skills necessary to transition from school-to-work, with a number of vocational and career training experiences. This includes on-campus and off-campus job samplings, cooperative education, sheltered workshop phrases, classroom instruction and job placement. For students who cannot be placed into a vocational or trade school, it gives them an option, as the program also provides work-readiness skills, increased social and independent skills gained in a work environment.

“Our school community at Archway prides themselves in offering not only superior education, but also in giving that little extra something. We truly care about each and every person who walks through our doors – we are a family. And this translates into a learning environment full of unyielding support to further foster growth and solidify a successful future for all of our students. We are glad for this honor by NASET, which



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recognizes those efforts, and thankful for everyone that works hard on behalf of our students,” stated said Susan Lafferty, Executive Director of The Archway Schools.

Archway Programs’ staff, sending districts, parents and children all work together as a team to support one another ensuring that each child is read for whatever may lie ahead. Dedicated teachers, therapists and counselors work hard with students in small class environments to deliver caring and effective educational services, as well as provide a wide variety of support services, including but not limited to: behavior and stress management techniques, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. Staff is highly motivated to give each student the individualized care they deserve.

“We have a long history of meeting the individualized needs of students with challenges in New Jersey,” added Lafferty. “We strive to create an environment where children can reach their full potential. Staff members include a certified behavior team, social workers and counselors, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapist, paraprofessionals, registered school nurses, art and music therapists, career coaches, teachers, supervisors, principals, secretaries and swim instructors. Our all-inclusive schools have low student-to-staff ratios. Often times, students have personal assistants in their classrooms.”

Any type of programming that helps foster communication and social growth in students becomes an integral part of the core curriculum at The Archway Schools, which is always looking for new and innovative methodologies to benefit students. The schools serve students from preschool throughout twelfth grade (up to 21 years of age) with close to 240 students currently enrolled.



The Archway Schools’ leadership team (left to right) Mike Graff, Susan Lafferty and Mark Letiziano.



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Staff and students from Archway Schools at their Annual Spring Show which showcases themed performances from each classroom in the music and art therapy programs.



Mr. Gabe, Music Teacher and Therapist in one of his classes with Archway School students.



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Staff and students raising autism awareness, acceptance and inclusion at the 9th Annual Hands Around the Lake event.

For more information on Archway Programs, visit www.archwayprograms.org.

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About Archway Programs

Since 1965, Archway Programs has been meeting the individualized needs of thousands of families throughout the state of New Jersey. Archway Programs is a diverse, non-profit, human services organization which includes approved private schools for students with disabilities in addition to several model programs providing unmatched services. Built on a solid foundation of core values, providing safety, possessing compassion and promoting individuality, Archway Programs strives to improve the life of every individual served. Our goal is to ensure that each individual's needs are met and customized services are provided and partnered with passionate, committed and talented professionals in a safe environment. Over 440 individuals are currently employed by Archway Programs and this dedicated and talented staff provides services to over 1,800 children and adults requiring individualized care. Please visit www.archwayprograms.org for more information.



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