



Message from the CEO



Greetings Team,

As we sneeze, cough, and rub our eyes during this Spring season and anticipate the start of Summer. We once again find ourselves in a liminal space, occupying a transitional and hopefully brief unregulated state as we navigate the ongoing pandemic and its impact on our daily lives.

This year, some of our lives have been disrupted by unfortunate death in our families across a broad range. At Mending Fences, we continue to monitor the dynamic nature of the pandemic and implement measures to assist employees with resources to avoid significant illness and minimize disruptions. As we learned last year and in the first quarter of this year, Mending Fences' behavioral and educational support can indeed progress during trying times. We all struggled through the chaos, ups, and downs, asking ourselves several questions, "Woah, you think we can really pull this off? Okay, let's do it! The love and passion I have for our students keep this organization grounded and focused, and I try to put in place what is best for the students we serve.

During this next quarter, students are feeling anxious about the end of the school year. Students are also getting ready to start SOL testing. As you know, testing can be stressful not only for the students but also for the teachers. This is the time to understand your job responsibilities and requirements thoroughly. Take some time to glance over your students' IEP/BIP to fully understand their specific needs and look for new ways to approach behaviors. See what tools you have in your tool belt that may need to be sharpened. As we recharge our students, we must renew ourselves...take time to make sure you "drain-off" your day for self-care. Understanding our own Mental Health is so critical. See where you can develop personal goals to regroup and recharge as we close out this year. Let's finish strong!

In Service and Leadership,

Marian Parker Branch



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T raining Tip

As we finish out the year, here are some tips to help your student get past that end of the year slump....

1. Summer Check-in

Ask your student what their plans are for summer! Have them write or draw what they hope to do.

2. Fresh Air

If permissible, take your student outside for some fresh air/change of scenery

Self-Care/ Check-In Tips



How Are You?

No, seriously, how are you?! Oftentimes we gloss over this question with a default answer of "I'm fine" or "I'm good" when really the answer is "I'm struggling" or "I'm tired". Even if you are uncomfortable sharing details with others, be honest with yourself!

Try answering this question with journaling your true feelings or sharing with a trusted friend. This is the first step to making sure you are giving yourself accurate self-care throughout the day!

How To Build a Better Bedtime Routine

Click the link above for tips on setting the tone to getting a good night's rest leading into a GREAT morning!



Special thanks to Ms. Liggins for leading the job fair at Armstrong High school! It was a great success!

Job Fair / Events

On May 11, Mrs. James spearheaded our first Professional Profile Seminar geared toward career development!



Mr. Moore presented a session entitled, "Know Your Craft" and shared ways that staff can develop personally and professionally within the field.

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Staff Highlight



Mending Fences Interns

This quarter, we wanted to take the time to show appreciation to our interns, hailing from Virginia Union University! They have stepped up tremendously and have been exemplary of what it means to be "dedicated to improving lives!" Thank you Interns!

Did You Know?

There are supplemental training courses that allow you to receive certification and is counted toward your training hours?

Reach out to Mr. Moore at pmoore@mendingfencesva.com to get started on your RELIAS training today!

Important Dates



May 15 - **MANDATORY** Staff Meeting

May 30- School Closed (Memorial Day)

June 20- School Closed (Juneteenth)

June 24 - 1/2 Day / Last Day of School

