



RISING STARS ACADEMY



2021-22

From the Superintendent

WELCOME WINTER

Welcome to the "Most Wonderful Time of the Year"!! While we live in a commercial world of promoting the holidays as a magical time, the truth is that it usually causes anxiety and stress for many. Rising Stars Academy is trying to downplay the holidays while spending time working with students on "healthy relationships" in an effort to help students talk and communicate appropriately with others. We hope students are able to speak to friends and family in a positive manner while at home to get help with any anxiety they may experience. Please keep communication open with our staff about any anxiety your student(s) may have during this time. We will be happy to help in whatever way we can.

Our students and staff have done a great job staying healthy. We are proud of the fact that we have not had to close or quarantine any students since September. We are serious about taking measures to keep our students and their families safe. We hope that after the holiday season, and starting second semester, we can welcome back some of our online students. Students return to Henry Ford Hospital, an external job site, this week. We are making progress with other companies to welcome the return of RSA students for job training. We will also be starting our "elective" classes in January to give students exposure to their choice of classes each Friday.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to message me or speak to your student's caseload teacher. We are happy to meet and/or discuss any issues at any time.

Deb



HOMEHUBCRAFTSHOW WAS A SUCCESS!

On Saturday, November 13, 2021, Home Hub hosted a holiday craft show in the cafeteria at RSA. The event was well attended!

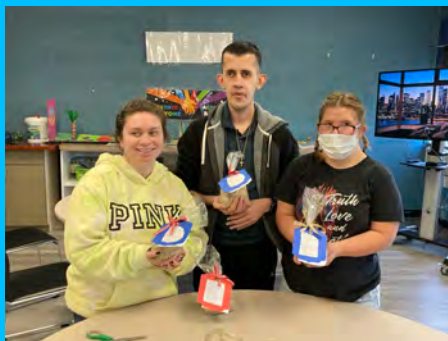




Ms. Emily's class is working on a Life Skills Unit about relationships. Information covered concerns friendships, relationships with family, employers, and co-workers as well as romantic relationships. Students will learn how to initiate and maintain friendships as well as the healthy and unhealthy signs that may come with not only friendship, in general, but with romantic friendships as well. Students will practice conflict resolution within a friendship as well as learn how to behave appropriately in a professional relationship.



Ms. Jenni is focusing on healthy relationships and how they thrive on respect, kindness, and trust. Unhealthy relationships that revolve around controlling behaviors, emotional abuse, or physical aggression are also discussed. Activities are helping students learn to recognize and protect themselves from unhealthy and/or abusive relationships. The first student activity was to recognize the roles people in their lives play in their relationships and students realizing they do not have to allow people into their lives if they do not want to. Different colored flags were utilized to indicate flags to watch for in relationships. The green flags represented good qualities found in a friend and/or qualities that need to be exhibited to be a good friend. The yellow flags displayed qualities that represented pet peeves/were annoying but were not physically, emotionally, or financially draining. Red flags meant RUN! Students should not accept any qualities listed on the red flags. Students had fun, learning, and building relationships as they moved through this exercise.



Students are learning to understand the "ingredients" of a healthy relationship. They are engaging in healthy conversations to promote self-advocacy as well as learning how to act/respond appropriately in life situations. Crafts and cooking are used to reiterate healthy "recipes" for healthy relationships. "Friendship" soup recipes were created and are for sale in the Four Circles Store & Cafe. Turkey friendship feet were also created with popcorn and candy corn. Students enjoyed the conversations about friendship generated by these crafts as well as the opportunity to use their math skills.

Ms. Maria's class is using the Cricut to make Christmas items for the store such as Christmas tags and cards. They are also working on a Christmas cookie plate for the spotlight in the Four Circles Store & Cafe. Working with the Cricut demonstrates the amount of work it takes to create everyday items students see in stores. It also helps develop math skills by determining prices based on labor, product cost, and profit.



In Culinary, students have been working in the areas of demo, main kitchen, processing plant (vegetables), bakery, and the production plant. They learn recipes, measurements, and how to follow directions through hands on learning. Students produce 8,000 pieces of a protein bite, service 45 restaurant accounts with the bakery, and dice over 2000 lbs of vegetables. The product is in stores and used in some of the finest restaurants in the Detroit Metropolitan area. Students also make meal kits that are available for curbside pickup from the Four Circles Store & Cafe.

FOUR CIRCLES STORE & CAFE

Phone: 586-806-6455 X133 (Cafe)

Store Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Cash, credit, and checks accepted

Bread can be purchased in the store.

Carry outs for lunch are also available.



Home Internet
A must-have for your family

The Federal Communications Commission started a temporary program to help eligible families pay for Home Internet service during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) includes up to \$50 a month discount on Internet service.

LIMITED TIME OFFER
Home Internet
FREE - \$23/mo

Step 1:
Check if You Qualify for the Emergency Broadband Benefit
See if your household fits into any eligible categories below.

Step 2:
Apply for the Emergency Broadband Benefit (see link below)
Choose how you want to apply and submit all necessary documents.

Step 3:
Find a Broadband Provider Near You
Use the search tool in the application to find a company that offers EBB discounts.

Step 4:
Make A Choice Before EBB Ends
Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) will notify you about 30 days before EBB ends. You must choose a plan or the ISP will disconnect your service at the end of the 30 days.

Eligibility for affordable Home Internet service if your home meets one of the following criteria:

- Participant in FCC Lifeline; Participant in an existing affordable Home Internet offer
- Child enrolled in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- CalFresh (food stamp) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medi-Cal or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Student with a Pell Grant

Note: The Internet Service Provider cannot require a waiting period before applying the EBB discount. You can keep the Lifeline benefit for a mobile phone and get EBB for a discount on Home Internet service.

www.internetforallnow.org/applytoday or
call **866-696-8748** to apply today!

*In addition, the following offers are available long-term. Go to www.everyoneon.org/ctcf to find offers in your zip code.

Spectrum 844-525-1574 \$23/mo	human-IT 888-519-4724 \$15/mo	access 855-220-5211 \$10/mo	Frontier 855-970-1449 \$20/mo	COMCAST 855-846-8376 \$9.99/mo
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You may qualify for a discounted rate on your home internet service. The FCC has a temporary program to help eligible families. Please call 1-866-696-8748 or visit www.internetforallnow.org to find out more information as well as to apply.

Smart Transportation

RSA students can become ADA certified through Smart. Please visit: <https://www.smartbus.org/Services/ADA-Service/Eligibility-Application> or contact Smart at 1-866-962-5515. RSA also has applications in the main office. Approval by Smart can take from two to four weeks so please plan ahead.

AmazonSmile

RSA now participates with AmazonSmile. A percentage of your purchases will be donated back to RSA. Please utilize this link which is connected to RSA: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-0834143>

Once you enter through the above link, you continue to shop and checkout as you normally would. Your support is appreciated!

IMPORTANT DATES:

Dec. 16, 2021 - Pictures for School IDs

Dec. 23, 2021-Jan. 3, 2022 - NO SCHOOL

Jan. 4, 2022 - RETURN TO SCHOOL

Feb. 9, 2022 - SPRING COUNT DAY Feb.

14-16, 2022 - NO SCHOOL

(Mid-Winter Break)

The All Star Cafe'

As of now, the All Star Cafe' will remain closed due to COVID and CDC Guidelines. Please check back after the first of the year. Thank you.

REMINDER - STUDENT ABSENCES

If your student is going to be absent for any reason, please contact the main office to let us know. If the office is closed, please leave a message or send an email. Many students attend job sites and it is crucial that we know if they will be there or not. If your student is going to be absent, we can give another student the opportunity to attend a job site with proper notice.

OLD Crayons Needed!

If you have old crayons you no longer need, please send them in! RSA will put them to good use. Thank you.

Thank you!!!

Thank you to all who have donated their time, supplies, and/or have contributed monetarily. All support is appreciated and vital to our students' success!

REMIND 101

RSA utilizes Remind 101 to keep parents informed. If there is an emergency school closure or an important message to be shared, you will receive notification through Remind. If you need to sign up, text 81010 and in the message line type @dd38c2a (send) then follow the prompts.

You do not need to sign up each year. Your information will roll over each school year.

If you have any questions, please contact Marsha in the main office at 586-806-6455. Thank you.



Summer Camp Opportunity:

Tamarack Camps: Avodah Young Adult Program/Special Needs Inclusion Program
Please visit the link below or contact Danielle Tagai at dtagai@tamarackcamps.com

<https://tamarackcamps.com/campers/special-needs-inclusion-program/>

Resource Page



23855 Lawrence St.
Center Line, MI 48015

Phone: 586-806-6455

Fax: 586-806-6967

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/RisingStarsAcademyMI/>

Instagram: #risingstaracademy

www.rising-stars-academy.org



Think Big

Community Agencies/Resources

THEARC - <https://arcmi.org>

44050 Gratiot Avenue
Clinton Township MI 48036
586-469-1600

Advocate organization for those with developmental disabilities.

DISABILITY NETWORK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN (DNEM)

16645 15 Mile Road
Clinton Township MI 48035
586-268-4160

<http://www.dnom.org>

Tracey Comber-Scarsella
(tcomer@dnom.org)

Mark Bashaw (mebashaw@dnom.org)
Disability Network provides numerous services including Transition Services, Independent Living Skills Training, and Advocacy Services, among others.

NEW HORIZONS REHABILITATION SERVICES, INC.

www.newhorizonsrehab.org
Ms. Elizabeth Foradori
Social Security Specialist

MI ALLIANCE FOR FAMILIES

1819 South Wagner Road
PO Box 1406

Ann Arbor, MI 49106

1-800-552-4821

www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

www.ssa.gov

Toll Free: 1-800-772-1314

MACOMB COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

www.mccmh.net

586-948-0222 Access Center

Offers a variety of supports and mental health services to meet needs of those with developmental disabilities, coordinated by a therapist or case manager.

MI PROTECTION & ADVOCACY

4095 Legacy Parkway, Ste. 500
Lansing, MI 48911-4263

1-800-288-5923

www.mpas.org

