

*Celebrating*  
— 10 YEARS —



# RISING STARS ACADEMY

## *A few Words from the Superintendent.....*

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We are close to wrapping up another fantastic school year here at Rising Stars Academy! The 2022-2023 school year has been full of growth and new opportunities. We expanded our external job sites, reopened the All-Star Cafe, had our very own kiosk in Little Caesars Arena, and through the Rising Stars Foundation, were able to open up our new coffee and sandwich shop: Gather + Grounds.

This past month students have been learning about agricultural science and transportation. During the last few weeks of school we will be spending a lot of time preparing and planting in the garden and look forward to harvesting in the fall!

We thank all of our families and supporters for everything you have done for the students and our school over the course of the year.

A final word to all the Rising Stars students: Thank you all for all your hard work and dedication throughout the year. Each and every one of you continues to impress all of the staff members here. We love to watch you grow and succeed every day.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at (586) 200-4831, email me at [ebregier@rsaonline.org](mailto:ebregier@rsaonline.org) or contact your student's caseload teacher.

Emily Bregier

**2023**

**JUNE**

# Ms. Maureen's Classroom

May was a busy month for Ms. Maureen's class! May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Students learned about the powerful benefits of Accupressure for stress, anxiety and calming. It is a skill students can practice and share with friends/family. They also practiced money transactions by way of visits to Gather + Grounds where students could make purchases.

Continuing to learn about neurochemistry, students performed a science experiment demonstrating the similarity of our mind and bodies as magnificent machinery that can be highly resilient when challenged. "You Light up my Life" Luminaries and coupon books were created for moms/caretakers. Transportation placards were explored as we learned about helpful signs in the community to navigate. Students also honored veterans with artistic chalk works providing walkers in the local community with the vibrant American Flag and messages of thankfulness to our Veterans.



# Ms. Jenni's Classroom

Ms. Jenni's class took a wonderful CBI to Taylor Botanical Gardens and Heritage Park. The students got to see the beautiful flowering plants and trees and spoke with some of the volunteers there about how they choose what flowers to plant where. The students learned the names of many different plants. Students enjoyed a walk around a lake filled with geese and ducks and learned about the different historic buildings that were donated to the park.



# Ms. Sarah's Classroom

Students had fun painting ceiling tiles to decorate their classroom. They traced the pictures they wanted onto the tiles, picked the colors, and painted them.



# Ms. Maria's Classroom

Ms. Maria's class was working hard to learn green screen technology. They had to learn different types of programs to edit their videos. Students also learned how to crop, cut, and enhance their videos as well as how to use Chroma Key to change the background. Lastly, they learned how to arrange and download their videos.



# FIRST AID

On Monday, May 15, RSA students in their First Aid elective class went to Fraser High School to work on their CPR/AED training. Mrs. Van Eenenaam-Iwanicki, a certified instructor, allowed RSA to be included in her class. Students worked in mixed groups of Fraser HS and RSA students. A huge thank you to Fraser High School, Mrs. Van Eenenaam-Iwanicki, and her class for hosting and helping RSA students learn these valuable life-saving skills.



## FIRST AID (continued)



## Shout Out!

Rising Stars Academy would like to give a Shout Out! to Universal Macomb Ambulance. Universal donated an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machine to RSA. Thank you!

# COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

## OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

For information about teen and/or adult programs offered through Oakland University for those with special needs, please visit:

<https://www.oakland.edu/oucares/programs/seasonal-programs/>

## ROCHESTER AVON RECREATION AUTHORITY

For information about adult programs offered through RARA, please visit:

<https://www.rararegistration.org/CourseActivities.aspx?id=5&cat=8>

## LET'S RIDE, DETROIT - Adaptive MoGo

Opening for the 2023 season in May, this company offers different cycling options for those with special needs. You can rent and ride in Detroit or Ferndale. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://mogodetroit.org/mogo-for-all/adaptive-mogo/>

## SEA LIFE MICHIGAN

Visit Sea Life Michigan in Auburn Hills at Great Lakes Crossing during an upcoming Sensory Friendly Morning session. Move through the aquarium one hour before it opens to the general public. Distracting stimuli (bright lights, louds noises, music, etc.) will be disabled. Visit the following link for more information and to purchase tickets:

<https://www.visitsealife.com/michigan/what-s-inside/events/sensory-friendly-mornings/>



## BOWLERO LANES

Love to bowl? Bowlero Lanes offers low sensory hours for those with special needs. Please visit the following link for more information:  
<https://bowlero-detroit.com/special-needs>

## AUTISTIC PLAY PLACE

Autistic Play Place offers a Weekend Respite Day Camp for those with special needs, ages 3-26. For more information, please visit the following link:  
<https://autisticplayplace.org/respite/>

Autistic Play Place offers L.E.A.P. Summer Camp 2023 for those with special needs, ages 6-26. For more information and/or to register, please visit the following link: <https://autisticplayplace.org/leap/>

**WEEKEND RESPITE DAY CAMP**  
**Because you deserve a break.**

Scheduling for Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays!

Awesome Enrichment and Social Opportunities

Ages 6 to 26

5 Hours for \$75

**WHAT WE OFFER:**

- Creative and Sensory Art
- Social Group Interactions
- Cooking Creations
- Fitness Fun
- Life Skills
- Lego Learning

Autism & Special Needs Center  
**Play-Place**  
All ages. All diagnoses. All cognitive levels.

Call 586-254-6533 or go to:  
[www.autisticplayplace.org/respite](http://www.autisticplayplace.org/respite)  
for details and registration

# University of Michigan Adaptive Programs 2023 Summer Schedule

<https://medicine.umich.edu/dept/pmr/patient-care/therapeutic-other-services/umaise-university-michigan-adaptive-inclusive-sports-experience/offered-programs>

Golf  
Fishing  
Kayaking  
Tree Climbing  
Camping  
Adaptive Cycling  
Hiking  
Wheelchair Basketball  
Wheelchair Tennis

## **DISABILITY NETWORK CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Visit the link below to see calendar of events.  
Click on an event to find registration information.

<https://www.dnemichigan.org/calendar/>



# 2023 Events for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

All events require preregistration with payment. Sign up early as many programs reach capacity quickly.



**Cupid & Cupcakes Social**  
Waterford Oaks Activity Center  
Thursday, Feb. 9, 6-8 p.m.  
\$10/person; \$5/caregiver

**Adaptive 4H Fair Day**  
Springfield Oaks County Park  
Thursday, July 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Free

**Slice of Summer**  
Oak Park Community Center  
Tuesday, Aug. 8, 6-8 p.m.  
\$10/person; \$5/caregiver

**Jingle Bell Ball**  
Waterford Oaks Activity Center  
Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6-8 p.m.  
\$12/person; \$6/caregiver

**Superhero Social**  
Novi Civic Center  
Friday, March 24, 6-8 p.m.  
\$10/person; \$5/caregiver

**Summer Sizzler**  
Independence Oaks County Park  
Wednesday July 19, 6-8 p.m.  
\$10/person; \$5/caregiver

**Awesome Autumn**  
Waterford Oaks Activity Center  
Thursday, Sept. 28, 6-8 p.m.  
\$10/person; \$5/caregiver

**Almost New Year**  
Royal Oak Community Center  
Wednesday, Dec. 27, 6-8 p.m.  
\$12/person; \$6/caregiver

**Marshmallow Drop**  
Catalpa Oaks County Park  
Friday, April 7, 11:30 a.m.  
Free

**Summer Splash**  
Waterford Oaks County Park  
Wednesday, July 26, 4-7  
\$8/person

**Halloween Happiness**  
Southfield Civic Center  
Thursday, Oct. 26, 6-8 p.m.  
\$10/person; \$5/caregiver

**Almost New Year**  
Waterford Oaks Activity Center  
Thursday, Dec. 28, 6-8 p.m.  
\$12/person; \$6/caregiver

**Spring Vibes Social**  
Southfield Civic Center  
Thursday, April 20, 6-8 p.m.  
\$10/person; \$5/caregiver

**Boot Scootin' Boogie**  
Auburn Hills Community Center  
Thursday, Nov. 16, 6-8 p.m.  
\$10/person; \$5/caregiver

## Event Locations

Auburn Hills Community Center  
3350 E. Seyburn Drive  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Catalpa Oaks County Park  
27705 Greenfield Road  
Southfield, MI 48076

Independence Oaks  
County Park  
9501 Sashabaw Road  
Clarkston, MI 48348

Novi Civic Center  
45175 West 10 Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48375

Oak Park Community Center  
14300 Oak Park Blvd.  
Oak Park, MI 48237

Royal Oak Community Center  
3500 Marais  
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Southfield Civic Center  
26000 Evergreen Road  
Southfield, MI 48076

Springfield Oaks County Park  
12451 Andersonville Road  
Davisburg, MI 48350

Waterford Oaks  
Activity Center  
2800 Watkins Lake Road  
Waterford, MI 48328

Waterford Oaks Waterpark  
1702 Scott Lake Road  
Waterford, MI 48328

## Contact

Sandy Dorey, CTRS  
Adaptive@oakgov.com

Call 248-221-8040 for  
questions or 248-858-0916  
to register

Registration opens six weeks  
prior to the event date

# Home Hub Information

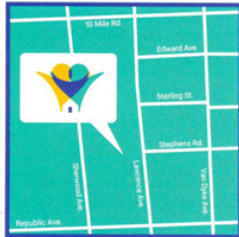
If your student is interested in attending Home Hub during the summer as well as when the Academy is closed, please contact Mr. Ryan Moir at 586-806-6455 or 248-508-1651 (cell). Below is information regarding the process. Please note that a supports coordinator is required.

For Macomb County, call Access Center if you do not already have a supports coordinator at 586-948-0222.

For Oakland County, call 248-464-6363. Please be aware that only Community Living Services (CLS) in Oakland County will approve individuals to attend our program.

Once that is set up, tell them you would like to go to the RSA Foundation for skill building. Your student will need 22 units per day they wish to attend our program.

**h**onor Yourself  
**o**bserve Your Surroundings  
**m**anifest Your Dreams  
**e**xplore Your Opportunities



Limited transportation assistance is available.

**Training Location:**

Rising Stars Academy  
 23855 Lawrence  
 Centerline, MI 48082

**When:**

Monday through Friday  
 8:30-1:00pm

**Contact Information:**

Ryan Moir  
 586-806-6455 Ext. 2  
 rmoir@rsaonline.org

**10 Most Important Traits for Successful Employment**

- 1. Honesty/Integrity/Morality
- 2. Adaptability/Flexibility
- 3. Dedication/Work Ethic
- 4. Dependability/Responsibility
- 5. Loyalty
- 6. Positive Attitude/Motivation
- 7. Professionalism
- 8. Self-Confidence
- 9. Self-Motivated/Ability to work with little or no supervision
- 10. Willingness to learn



Our day program and workshops provide structure that will suit each person's needs while promoting self-advocacy skills and personal independence.

Program components include learning about employment processes, career exploration, hands-on experience and personal/professional skill building. Additionally, on-site and off-site internships may be available.

We are committed to a safe, equitable and diverse learning environment where high achievement and lifelong success can be achieved through various learning opportunities, hands-on experience and through the development of personal skills.

**Workshops provide opportunities to learn about & broaden skills in the following areas:**

- Culinary
- Hospitality
- Retail/Sales
- Janitorial
- Agricultural
- Clerical
- Money Management
- Independent Living
- Do-It-Yourself
- The Employment Process
- Healthy Eating
- Personal Advocacy

**Admission Criteria:**

Our goal is to provide quality work-based/skill-building learning opportunities that produce outcomes desired by program participants. Intake staff will consider all applications and try to be flexible in meeting individual needs. Applicants MUST meet the following criteria to begin the intake process:

- Age 18+
- Medicaid beneficiary
- Macomb County resident

**Admission Process:**

Referral of applicants should be made to the H.O.M.E Hub support coordinator/intake staff by calling (586) 806-6455 and by completing application. The intake staffing consists of the support coordinator, program staff, the applicant and referring party. At the intake meeting, the applicant will receive an overview of the H.O.M.E Hub program and expectations.





## **FOUR CIRCLES STORE & CAFE**

**PHONE: 586-806-6455 X133 (CAFE)**

**STORE HOURS**

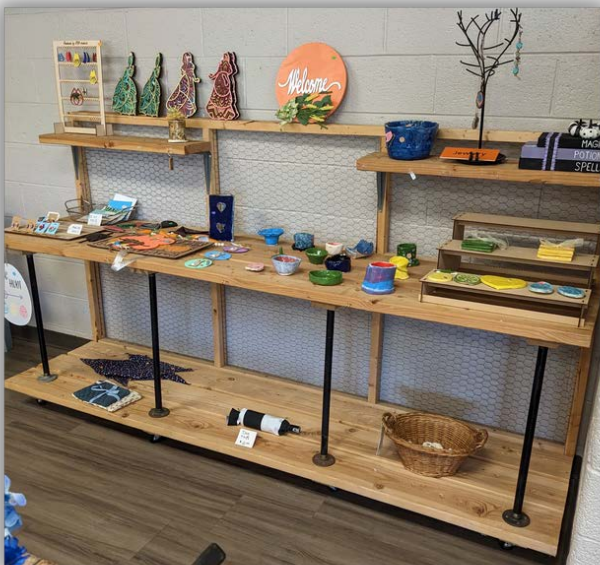
**TUESDAY-THURSDAY**

**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.**







# TEACHER AND STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK MAY 1-5, 2023

The first week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week. At Rising Stars Academy, it was decided to honor ALL staff! The hard work, dedication, camaraderie, and belief in the mission of RSA is a large part of the success of the students and the school as well as other endeavors pursued (Night Under the Stars, Gather + Grounds, etc.)

THANK YOU to our phenomenal staff in the Academy, the Bakery, Gather + Grounds, and the Home Hub program who go above and beyond each and every day. You are appreciated!







Marsha Salome, Administrative Assistant at Rising Stars Academy, recently received the #MICharterHero award for the month of May. Nominated by RSA's Superintendent, Emily Bregier, Marsha was presented with balloons and a certificate by MAPSA (Michigan Association of Public School Academies). The #MICharterHero project aims to recognize one shining star in the MI charter community every month. Each selected hero receives a #MICharterHero profile story, published in the Charter Connect Blog, and shared across social media platforms and in the Charter Connect Newsletter. Congratulations, Marsha!

<https://www.charterschools.org/blog/meet-may-micharter-hero-marsha-salome-from-rising-stars-academy>



# Make A Difference Award

In February, 2023 the MISD Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) asked parents for nominations of "individuals who have made a significant positive impact on the educational experience of special needs students." Rising Stars Academy is proud that two of our staff were nominated by parents of RSA students! While they were not chosen by PAC, they deserve to be recognized for their nomination and dedication. Below are some of the comments submitted on their nomination forms. Congratulations are extended to Paraprofessional, Nancy Forster, and Teacher, Maria Maples!

## Nancy Forster

"During my experiences with Nancy she is always receptive, encouraging and willing to share her teaching skills with me. Nancy has an outstanding disposition and has a strong willingness to collaborate with parents. I wanted to shadow the work site with her prior to my student going alone with staff. Nancy was able to interact and teach my student in their unknown environment."

"Nancy says "Do your best that's all we can ask". "Pure Pride". "

"Nancy is a strong open communicator, timely and works well with others. With co-workers and students she accomplished one goal, helping others be self-sufficient when society fears Autistic or any special needs individual. Nancy strives to give them a change for a "normal" experience. Passion seen and felt, love her strong work ethic."



# Maria Maples

"Maria is an amiable teacher, she is good at communicating with parents, my student's performance in school, what is good and what is not good, She communicates with us in a timely manner, she also communicates in many ways, sometimes in the school meets, sometimes in meetings, and sometimes sends emails. Her communication allows us to keep abreast of the performance of the students, which helps students correct their deficiencies and give full play to their strengths."

"She will encourage my student to do more things; she also trains my student to obey instructions in many ways, such as the proportion of reminders."

"Through training, she has improved my student's ability and established the self-confidence for my student. To deal with my student's shortcomings, she always communicates with my student alone to protect and increase my student's self-esteem,"

"Under the training, my student likes team activities very much, and also improves his desire to communicate. As a team member, my student's communication ability has been enhanced, and they have made a progress for cooperation with teacher and classmates."



# KELLER-WILLIAMS

On Thursday, May 11 volunteers from Keller-Williams came to Rising Stars to help with garden prep. The weather cooperated (sunny with blue skies) and volunteers were treated to lunch at Gather + Grounds. We appreciate the support of Keller-Williams and their staff!



# IMPORTANT DATES

<b>JUNE 2:</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>JUNE 7:</b>	<b>GAME NIGHT @ GATHER + GROUNDS 5 P.M. – 8 P.M.</b>
<b>JUNE 15:</b>	<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION MTG/ROOM 134/6:30 P.M.</b>
<b>JUNE 16:</b>	<b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</b> <b>9:30 AM COMPLETER CEREMONY</b>
<b>JULY 20:</b>	<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION MTG/ROOM 134/6:30 P.M.</b>
<b>AUGUST 17:</b>	<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION MTG/ROOM 134/6:30 P.M.</b>

**ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!**

## RISING STARS ACADEMY WISH LIST:

Rising Stars Academy now has a donation list for supplies! The list can be found on Amazon.com. To access, please visit the following link: <https://a.co/6pSISYQ>

*Thank  
you!*

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



# Resource Page

**The ARC** - <https://arcmi.org>

44050 Gratiot Avenue

Clinton Township MI 48036

586-469-1600

Advocate organization for those with developmental disabilities.



**Social Security Administration** - [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

Toll Free: 1-800-772-1314



**New Horizons Rehabilitation Services, Inc.** - [www.newhorizonsrehab.org](http://www.newhorizonsrehab.org)

Ms. Elizabeth Foradori

Social Security Specialist



**Macomb County Community Mental Health** - [www.mccmh.net](http://www.mccmh.net)

586-948-0222 Access Center

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



Think Big