

Celebrating
— 10 YEARS —



RISING STARS

ACADEMY

A few Words from the

Superintendent.....

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We hope everyone had a great holiday break and New Year. It was fantastic to see all the students coming back into the building smiling and ready to take on 2023!

The beginning of the year is a perfect time to refresh- whether you want to jumpstart your personal goals, build on your achievements, or put past disappointments behind you. This is a perfect time to let go, start new, and be the best you can be.

We have a lot of exciting things coming up in the next few months at Rising Stars Academy, including an after school opportunity for students to participate in training with Little Caesars Arena. Please see the flyer within the newsletter for more information.

For the first two weeks in January, students will be finishing up their self-advocacy unit. Students are learning how to advocate for themselves in the school and work setting, but we encourage families to continue to help with this skill at home and beyond.

It is our desire to make the second half of the school year excellent for all. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your students caseload teacher or reach out to me at ebregier@rsaonline.org.

Sincerely, Emily Bregier

New Year brings change.....

As we begin the new year at Rising Stars Academy our team will be changing a bit. Debbie Prentiss (aka – Mrs. Chef, Mrs. A-Prentiss, Ms. Deb) will have a new title, and Ms. Emily will be appointed by the Board of Education as the new Superintendent. Ms. Deb's new title "Executive Director" will be under the RSA Foundation. She will still be available to help guide and support the Academy; however, her focus will be on building capacity within both organizations.

This change will take place on February 1, 2023. We are all very excited to have Emily take this new position and congratulate her on success.

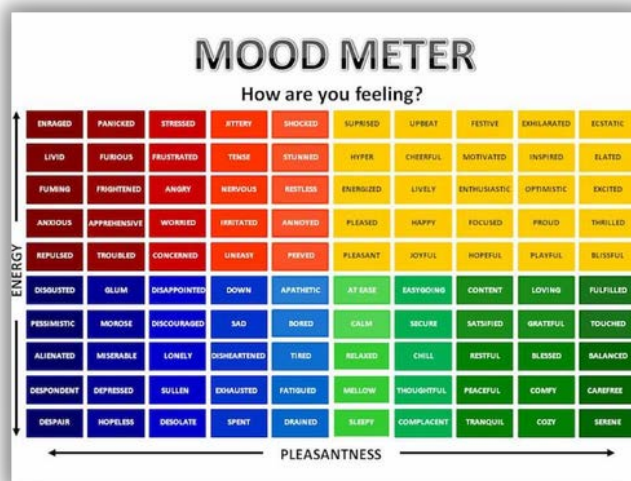
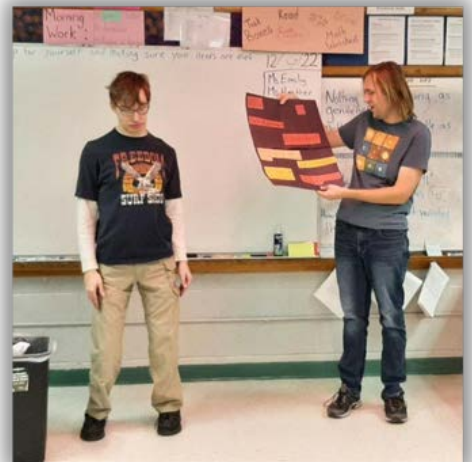
2023

JANUARY

Ms. Emily's Classroom

During life skills students are learning about self advocacy. They are gaining an understanding of what self advocacy is, where to self advocate, when it is useful, why it is important, and how to do it.

During social emotional learning students have been learning about the Mood Meter and working on identifying and communicating how they feel each day. We have been learning what each of the words mean within the Mood Meter as well as participating in activities like the one pictured below. Students stand inside the color hula hoop they are feeling to see that they are not alone and to find peers that can support them.



Ms. Jenni's Classroom

During our current events lesson the students were very interested in the volcano that erupted in Hawaii. We researched volcanoes to find out where they are, how they erupt, and the different types of volcanoes. Students had a great time building their volcanoes from cups, cardboard boxes, aluminum foil, and paper mache. Students took them outside and enjoyed watching them erupt.

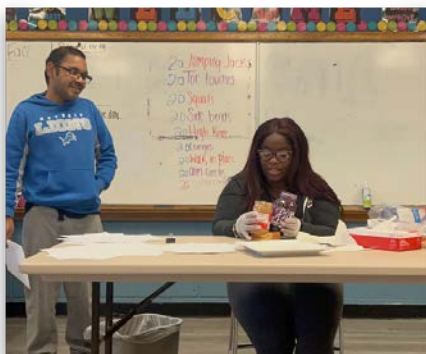


The students chose the style ornaments and decoration that we printed on our Glowforge (laser printer). They painted each piece by hand and then assembled them to create many gorgeous grinch ornaments and wall hangings. The quality, love, and care that went into each piece was evident, and we sold out quickly!



Ms. Sarah's Classroom

In Ms. Sarah's class students had to write down step-by-step instructions for making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Ms. Terrah then had students read her the instructions they wrote. She followed the written instructions. Students learned that how they say things and the words they choose are very important so others can understand exactly what you mean.



Ms. Maria's Classroom

Ms. Maria's class is working on getting the RSA podcast up and running. Students are coming up with content and learning about the technology that we have in the recording studio. Be on the lookout for the RSA Podcast. It is set to launch in January.



Coming soon..

RSA Podast





Heritage Day Potluck

On Monday, December 19 students participated in the Heritage Day potluck lunch. Students were encouraged to bring in a food dish that represented their cultural heritage or any dish their family enjoys over the holidays.

math center

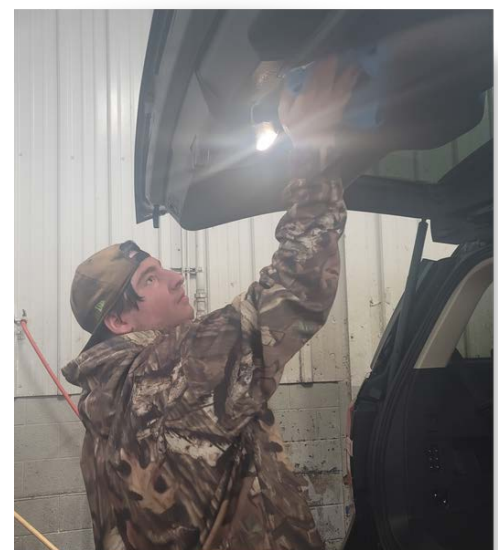
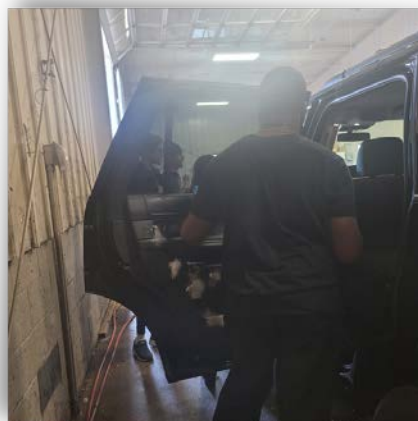
Students have been participating in a variety of math centers where they have been learning how to purchase items, make change, and count up money in a variety of ways.



Job Sites



How sweet that our students get to work and prepare new cars for delivery to car buyers! Students work next to Crest Ford employees and detail every inch of new vehicles. They learn valuable team working skills by using a check sheet to complete tasks until the job is done. Students also learn additional skills like tire changing and how to facilitate lug nuts and tire lock.



Hometown Hospitality Group



At Pop's for Italian students work with prep cooks to help prepare items for lunch and dinner. Currently, students are mastering their skills creating Arincini, portion sauces and pizza toppings along with cutting breads for bread baskets. Students are gaining skills and knowledge in food production as well as cutting and workstation cleanliness. No matter what skill they are using, they also are gaining workplace etiquette, social skills, and other soft skills to become part of a team.



An interesting job training for our students is at Tiger Lily, our first Asian restaurant where many foods used are new to our students and are prepared differently than what they are used to. Students are gaining invaluable skills in the world of Asian cuisine including the making of sushi. While we have not mastered sushi yet, we are working with staff to prep all ingredients used in all menu items.

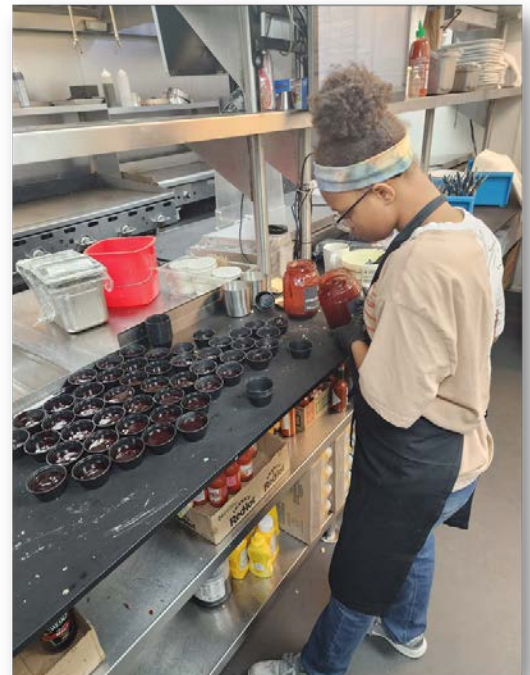




Hometown Hospitality Group

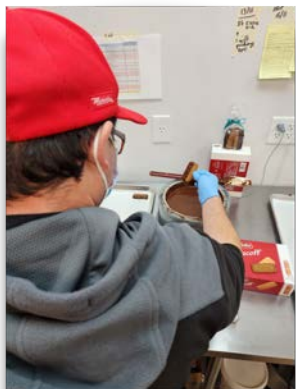
ONEEYEDBETTYS

One Eyed Betty's is another Ferndale restaurant where our students work next to prep chefs on portioning ingredients, preparing appetizers, and creating doughnut dough for the "donut of the week". The prep chefs are immersing our students into various roles in a kitchen that is preparing for service for lunch and dinner. Students were welcomed so much that they were even given staff T-shirts to wear while at work.





One of our newest job sites might be the yummiest yet. Quix Belguim Chocolates has our students working to mix and dip various items in their delectable chocolate. Students also learn how to package pieces appropriately for shipping by placing chocolates in boxes in a systematic way of placement to ensure security of product.





RISING STARS

FOUNDATION

Off campus learning/training opportunity

RSA has been offered a unique real-life partnership with Little Caesars Arena. It is a pilot program for our students to work with our staff and run a Kiosk during events. This program can potentially lead to more opportunities and possible employment for those who demonstrate the skills and abilities to work.

RSA will be operating a Kiosk in the concourse area of LCA during events, under the supervision of Chef Hass, who works at the school. Interns will be preparing food, taking orders, and serving to the public. No money will be handled at our Kiosk. Our Kiosk is a sandwich shop where the menu will be: Fried Bologna on a Cheddar Jalapeno Bun, Pastrami on Rye, Lentil Cakes on Multigrain Bun, and Shawarma on Pita.

Interns/Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

- o Be at RSA by no later than 3:30 p.m. on the day of event and be able to pick students up upon return after working approximately 9:30/10:00 p.m.
- o Uniforms: Chef coats or RSA apparel, Chef or solid black pants, Hat without logo and good slip resistant black shoes. Uniforms must be clean we will be working in the eye of the public so need to leave good impressions.

RSA Staff responsibilities:

- o Transport interns from RSA to event and back.
- o Always monitor and assist interns.
- o Allow interns breaks
- o Allow interns to bring cell phones, but they must remain on silent. Interns will also be given breaks to view events with permission from staff.
- o Feed interns at appropriate times during work schedule.

Please let us know if your son/daughter would like to be a part of this program. Please be patient with us – it is a brand-new adventure for both LCA and RSA.

Chef Mark

mprentiss@rsaonline.org
586-202-9466

23855 LAWRENCE AVENUE, CENTER LINE, MI 48105
586.806.6455 • www.rising-stars-academy.org • TAX ID 46-0834143



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.**



SKILL BUILDING



We love to take the skills that students are learning and apply them to fun and engaging activities. Students learned two different stitches during sewing. They put their skills to good use making holiday sweater ornaments.



Students also practiced their measuring and baking skills making flour and salt ornaments in the demo room.





ASK THE ADVOCATE

Navigating Medicaid Supports

This session covers how to apply for Medicaid and other benefits through the Department of Health and Human Services. You will learn what services Medicaid covers and how to access those services through Macomb Community Mental Health to help you live the life you want.

JANUARY 10TH, 2023
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

44050 N. GRATIOT AVE
CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI 48036

REGISTRATION:
586-469-1600 x120
www.arcservices.org/asktheadvocate

PLEASE REGISTER BY JANUARY 9TH

STAY TUNED FOR
INFORMATION ABOUT THESE
UPCOMING TOPICS:

- SOCIAL SECURITY
- ESTATE PLANNING

Registration required. Sessions with less than five registrants will be cancelled



CHRISTY JANE COURTNEY

The Arc of Macomb



As a community service organization, donations from supporters like you, are what allow us to continue to offer free events such as this! A donation is welcomed, but never required.

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 16:	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY - NO SCHOOL
JANUARY 19:	RSA BOARD OF EDUCATION MTG 6:30 PM - CAFE'
FEBRUARY 8:	SPRING COUNT DAY
FEBRUARY 14:	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS/STAFF REPORTS
FEBRUARY 16:	BOARD OF EDUCATION MTG 6:30 PM - CAFE'
FEBRUARY 20-22:	NO SCHOOL/WINTER BREAK
FEBRUARY 23:	RETURN TO SCHOOL
MARCH 16:	RSA BOARD OF EDUCATION MTG 6:30 PM - CAFE'
MARCH 17:	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS/STAFF REPORTS

School Board Vacancy.

There is a vacancy on the Rising Stars Academy's school board. If interested, please submit a resume no later than Tuesday, January 17, 2023 via email to msalome@rsaonline.org. The new member will be sworn in at the January 19, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

RISING STARS ACADEMY WISH LIST:

Rising Stars Academy now has a wish list for supplies! The list can be found on Amazon.com. To access, please visit the following link:

https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/lr/3Q8I48FVSLSW/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl

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

*Thank
you!*

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](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!



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

Toll Free: 1-800-772-1314



New Horizons Rehabilitation Services, Inc. - www.newhorizonsrehab.org

Ms. Elizabeth Foradori

Social Security Specialist



Macomb County Community Mental Health - 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