

RISING STARS

ACADEMY

A few Words from the

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Superintendent.....

Spring is finally here! With the weather getting warmer and the garden beginning to grow, we start to find a new sense of renewal. As we plunge into all the excitement that Spring has to offer, please remember to encourage your Rising Star to stay focused and motivated so we can finish the school year shining brighter than ever!

Our St. Patrick's Day bowling fundraiser was a great success. We had a huge turnout of students, families, and staff. Thank you to everyone who attended and donated.

During the month of April students will begin to clean up the garden. If students wish to not get their shoes or clothes dirty, we recommend they bring in an old pair of shoes and extra clothes to keep in their locker to change into when it's time to go into the garden.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the school or email me at ebregier@rsaonline.org.

Emily Bregier



2024

Ms. Maureen's Classroom

Highlights: Job skill focus included CBI trips to 'Michigan Works!' in Macomb County to learn about career exploration/preparation services/resources that are available as well as to United Parcel Service to learn about customer service job skill sets including how to become a notary as well as services offered. Classroom focus included role playing customer service and cashier skills. We tapped into our creativity with role playing as jewelry design entrepreneurs with designing a piece of jewelry, selecting a company name, assigning it a cost. Some "designers" were economical and some were extravagant! Life skills included going to Walmart and Meijer and doing cost comparisons for first aid items/kits. Learning how to use a calendar on a daily basis for planning was highlighted by recording events/activities ongoing for the month. Practicing reading a map and researching important/fun facts for cities gave us a sense of places we might like to travel to. Visiting the library allowed us to identify and learn more about women in history.















Ms. Maureen's Classroom

(continued)

















Ms. Heather's Classroom

Ms. Heather's class has been working on planting again! We have also been working on crafts made with our Glowforge and decorated by our students for the store! Mosaics are coming along in our Friday elective. We also started going over small engine repairs and learning about how to change the oil.













Ms. Heather's Classroom

(continued)

















Ms. Sarah's Classroom

The students made knot fleece blankets. They measured and cut the blankets so they were the same size. They pinned them together and then cut the small sections that they then tied together!



















Ms. Maria's Classroom

Students in Ms. Maria's class have been making bread and pretzels. Students work together to combine the ingredients, knead the dough, shape it, and cook it. They have really enjoyed expanding their knowledge in the kitchen.

















RSA BOWLING FUNDRAISER HIGHLIGHTS

On Sunday, March 17, Rising Stars Academy hosted their annual bowling fundraiser. Fun was had by all! Below are pictures from the event. We would like to thank students, families, staff, and sponsors for their support to make this event a success each year.

SPONSORS

Binson's Medical Supply
Crest Ford - Rebecca Orzechowski
Del Bene Produce
Grey Ghost Detroi
Weingartz















































































ACADEMY

PRESENTS

SNOW QUEEN

MAY 3RD & 4TH 2024
7 PM AT CENTER LINE HIGH SCHOOL

26300 ARSENAL ST, CENTER LINE, MI

\$5 FOR STUDENTS &
SENIORS
\$7 FOR ADULTS

External Job Sites: Pop's For Italian

One of our external job sites is Pop's for Italian in Ferndale. Students are pictured simmering bolognese sauce and using an immersion blender to finish the bolognese sauce.





External Job Sites: One Eyed Betty's

One Eyed Betty's in Ferndale is another external job site. Students are pictured prepping vegetables as well as preparing dressings and dips.

















MOVE, TASTE, LEARN

Move, Taste, Learn is a 10 week program provided by a registered dietitian from Henry Ford Macomb School and Community Wellness. The program is an interactive nutrition education and physical activity promotion program. Each Thursday the dietitian comes into each classroom for half an hour and does a lesson followed by a healthy food sampling and a physical activity.













APRIL 2024 LUNCH MENU



LUNCH Menu APRIL 2024

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
Chef Salad Roll	1	Corn Dog Tater Tots Salad	2	Mini Quesadilla Salad Salsa	3	Unstuffed Cabbage Mashed Potatoes	4	NO SCHOOL Staff Reports: Prof Dev	5
Fish Sticks Mac & Cheese Salad	8	Pizza Broccoli Pears	9	Pasta w/Meat Sauce Green Beans	10	Mini Quesadilla Salad Salsa	11	Bag Lunch: Sandwich Goldfish Fruit Vegetable	12
Chicken Tenders Tater Tots Corn	15	Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Carrots & Peas	16	Mac & Cheese Salad	17	Chicken Alfredo Peas	18	Bag Lunch: Sandwich Goldfish Fruit Vegetable	19
Unstuffed Cabbage Mashed Potatoes	22	Chicken Sandwich Tater Tots Corn	23	Meatball Sub Salad Fruit	24	Corn Dog Tater Tots Beans	25	Bag Lunch: Sandwich Goldfish Fruit Vegetable	26
Chef Salad Roll	29	Broccoli Cheese Casserole w/Turkey & F Salad	30 Ham						

Salad Dressings: Low-cal Ranch

Low-cal Italian

Salad includes: 1 cup Greens and ½ cup Tomatoes

Daily Fresh Fruit: Apples, Bananas, Grapes, Oranges, Peaches, Pears

Milk Options: 1% White, Fat Free Chocolate, Soy



ROBOTICS: TEAM NEBULAS

On March 1 and 2, RSA Team Nebulas participated in a robotics competition held at Milford High School. Team Nebula placed 29th out of 38th. The next competition is this weekend, March 23 and 24 at Troy Athens High School. Congratulations to the students and staff who are a part of Team Nebula and their achievements that propel our robotics team forward!



























Troy Inclusive Music & Movement Class

Tuesdays (6 weeks)

February 20 - March 26, 2024

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

DNEM Troy Office or via Zoom

Register:

tinyurl.com/DNEMmusic

586-268-4160 REC-IT@DNEMichigan.org















YOGA Ages 16+

Residents: \$35 Non-Residents: 37

Session 1: February 6-

March 5 (no class 2/27

Session 2: March 12-April 2

Session 3: April 9-April 3

Session 4: May 7-May28

Session 5: June 4-June 35

Session 6: July 9 - July 30

TUESDAYS 4:30-5:30PM

Come and experience a form of yoga that works to improve balance, focus, coordination and strength. Learn poses to reduce fatigue, stiffness, and stress and stimulate the motor sensory areas of the brain. Wheelchair accessible, all levels of mobility are welcome. If you're able to utilize floor movements and poses, please bring a yoga mat to class. Support persons, at no cost, are required to assist individuals with limited cognitive and/or mobility challenged who need one-on-one assistance.

> Recreation Authority of Roseville & Eastpointe 18185 Sycamore, Roseville (586)445-5480 www.rare-mi.org





Spring Semester 2024

- February 15 Valentines Dance
- February 29 Bingo Bango!
- March 14 St. Patrick's Day Party
- April 11 Trivia Night
- April 25 Spring Fling

6:00-8:00 PM \$15.00 LOCATION: SCS GOLF CLUB



- February 21 Craft Night
- March 6 Craft Night
- · March 20 Craft Night
- April 3 -Craft Night
- April 17 Craft Night

7:00-8:00PM \$15.00 LOCATION: THE ART SHAC

- February 24 Workout with Alexa
- March 9 Workout with Alexa
- March 23 Workout with Alexa
- April 6 Workout with Alexa
- April 20 Workout with Alexa

10:45-11:45 AM

\$10.00

LOCATION: CROSSFIT FRESHWATER

YOGA



- March 2 Yoga with Angela
- March 16 Yoga with Angela
- April 13 Yoga with Angela

12:15-1:15 PM

\$15.00 LOCATION: SHORES YOGA





Michigan State Fair - 2024





2024 Eastern Michigan State Fair: Special Needs Day July 25, 2024 from 10 a.m. to noon with lunch to follow.

Please visit the link below for more information in the upcoming months. https://www.emsf.org/general-information/special-needs-program







BAGS

Rising Stars Academy is seeking donations of gift bags. Regardless of the holiday, any gently used bag in good condition or new bags will be accepted and appreciated. Donations can be brought to the main office. Thank you.







April 2, 2024 is World Autism Awareness Day. https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/materials/facts heets.html



The month of April is World Autism Acceptance Month.

Autism Walks:

4th Annual Detroit Autism Day Walk April 6 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Durfee Innovation Society, 2470 Collingwood St, Detroit 48206

Email: autisminthed@gmail.com

Tickets: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/4th-annual-detroit-autism-

day-walk-tickets-828392904477?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

2nd Annual 5K Walk-N-Talk for Autism Awareness
April 27 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
15501 Couzens Ave Eastpointe 48021
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-annual-5K-walk-n-talk-for-autism-awareness-tickets-808021332557?aff=ebdssdestsearch





2024 Summer Camp Information

https://www.veryspecialcamps.com/Michigan/ Special-Needs-Summer-Camps.shtml

Please visit the above link for information concerning 29 different summer camps at various locations in Michigan.





Michigan Alliance for Families Events

April 2024 https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events/

<u>April 12</u> Inclusion: FAPE in the LRE with Stephanie Nicholls from 12:00pm-1:30pm. Register at http://tinyurl.com/bd55xkyt

<u>April 16</u> Assistive Technology: More than Checking a Box with Sara Pericolosi from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Register at http://tinyurl.com/bdzz3wt4

<u>April 19 and 26</u> Behavior is Communication with Sally Burton-Hoyle from 1:00pm-2:30pm. Register at https://tinyurl.com/39vrhapc

<u>April 23</u> How to Have Collaborative Assistive Technology Conversations with Sara Pericolosi from 6:30-7:30pm. Register at http://tinyurl.com/yjsbkchb

<u>April 25</u> Self-Determination in the IEP with Karen Wang & Stephanie Nicholls from 12:00pm-1:30pm. Register at http://tinyurl.com/yeyuc7zh

<u>April 29</u> IEP: A Closer Look with Andrea Beachnau from 12:00pm-1:30pm. Register at http://tinyurl.com/mry8yykz

May 2024 https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events/

<u>May 1</u> Transition: What You Need to Know with Karen Wang from 9:30am-11:00am. Register at http://tinyurl.com/d99kkupy

<u>May 16</u> Promoting Literacy Success with Noel Kelty from 12:00pm-1:00pm. Register at http://tinyurl.com/52yuzvac

<u>May 22</u> Transition: Beyond IDEA with Karen Wang. For the 12:00pm-1:30pm webinar, register at http://tinyurl.com/yfnh8zub For the 6:30pm-8:00pm webinar, register at http://tinyurl.com/yfy4nndx

<u>May 30</u> Building Blocks of Self-Advocacy with Karen Wang from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Register at http://tinyurl.com/bpp9tebt

May 31 IEP: A Closer Look with Stephanie Nicholls from 9:30am-11:00am. Register at http://tinyurl.com/2vhwjkr6

Macomb County Adaptive Recreation Opportunities

Please visit the following link for a list of adaptive recreation opportunities in Macomb County:

https://www.macombgov.org/departments/move-more-macomb/adaptive-recreation

<u>Disability Network Eastern Michigan:</u> https://www.dnemichigan.org/calendar/

Please click on the link above to view their monthly calendar of events. Click on an event and it will provide information regarding same.

Oakland County Adaptive Needs Calendar

https://www.oaklandcountymoms.com/adaptive-needs-events-calendar-26620/

Monday, April 1, 2024 from 5:15p-6:30p (Also)

Special Needs Events - RARA Diner's Club

Select Rochester/Rochester Hills Area Restaurants

This opportunity is designed to support persons with special needs. Participants pay for their own meal, beverage, and tip. PRE-REGISTER EARLY as spots are very limited and so that we have enough assistance and space reserved in the restaurants. Exact restaurant choices will be announced at a later date. 14+ Years. \$6 per participant. To register, visit www.rararecreation.org.

Wednesdays, April 3, 2024 through May 29, 2024 from 7p-7:50p

Troy Adaptive Needs Events - NoteABLE: Rhythm Kids

Troy Community Center (3179 Livernois Rd, Troy, MI 48083)

Troy Recreation is working with NoteABLE Youth—a Troy nonprofit dedicated to providing inclusive and adaptive musical experiences to youth of all abilities. With nationally renowned Music Together curriculum, experience music development by drumming, singing, dancing, playing rhythm instruments, and participating in music-based games. For ages 8–12. \$110 resident / \$112 non-resident. For more info, email adaptive@troymi.gov.

Saturdays through April 6, 2024 (SATURDAYS) through June 1 from 10a-noon - ROCHESTER HILLS

Mondays through April 8, 2024 (MONDAYS) through June 3 from 6p-8p - TROY

Oakland County Adaptive Needs Events - OUCARES Autism Spectrum Bowling League - Oakland County

Classic Lanes (2145 Avon Industrial Dr, Rochester Hills, MI 48309)

Bowl One (1639 14 Mile Rd, Troy, MI)

Our friends at Classic Lanes in Rochester Hills have teamed up with OUCARES (Oakland University Center for Autism Research, Education and Support) to form a bowling league for individuals ages 16-plus on the autism spectrum. This opportunity will allow ASD students (over 16) and adults to enhance physical activity in a social, community setting. No bowling experience is necessary to participate. The cost of the bowling league is \$120. Click here to register for the 2024 Spring Bowling League for individuals with autism or autism spectrum disorders.

Thursday, April 11, 2024 from 6p-8p

Oakland County Parks Adaptive Needs Events - Grand Slam Frenzy

Southfield Civic Center (26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, MI 48076)

Seasonal, social dances and events hosted by <u>Oakland County Parks and Recreation</u>. \$10 per person / \$5 per caregiver.

Registration opens six weeks prior to each event date. Pre-registration required. Call 248-221-8040 for questions and to register.

Friday, April 12, 2024 from 7p-9p (Also Friday, May 10 July 12, August 9...)

Troy Special Needs Events - Friday Frolic Dance

Troy Community Center (3179 Livernois Rd, Troy, MI 48083)

Dancing with DJ with a fun holiday theme and refreshments. \$6 admission via punch card. The Friday Frolic Punch Card costs \$36, is good for 6 admissions, and can only be used for Friday Frolic Dances. For more info, visit <u>rec.troymi.gov</u>.

Tuesdays April 16, 2024 through May 21 from 5:30p-6:30p

Buddy Soccer League

Sashabaw Plains Park (5620 Maybee Rd, Clarkston, MI 48348)

6 week soccer league for boys and girls ages 7-14 with cognitive disabilities with or without physical impairments. Each player will be paired with a buddy, ages 10-17, to assist as needed. Minimum of 10 players/buddies. Hosted by www.itpr.org. MORE INFO...



Easterseals MORC is proud to present some of our favorite Michigan businesses offering cosmetology or dental services for individuals with disabilities and/or sensory needs.

HAIRCUT HUT

Located inside Autistic Play Place (39337 Mound Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48310) Offers kid-friendly salon services by professionally licensed stylists, themed

stylist chairs, and TV or movie selections. Their hour-long haircuts are designed

to accommodate meltdowns or panic attacks. Haircut Hut provides fingernail clipping too!

For pricing and availability, call: 586-254-6533.

CUTIE CUTS

13435 Hall Rd. Utica, MI 48315

Our friends at Cutie Cuts offer haircuts, styling, detangling, and braiding for children by appointment only. They also offer a Quiet Room, which is sensory friendly for children that struggle with a sensory disorder or anxiety. This room allows children to receive salon services in a private calming environment. The Quiet Room is designed with calming colors and equipped with a television, tablet, and tactile sensory toys. Whether your child has a sensory disorder, fear of receiving a haircut, or would simply like their own space, the Quiet Room is available upon request. Learn more at www.cutiecuts.com

COOKIE CUTTERS - HAIR CUTS FOR KIDS

Located throughout the United States. Michigan locations include Royal Oak, Northville, and Canton.

Cookie Cutters is a children's hair care salon with over 25 years of experience. Each location includes an in-store playground, televisions at each station for the children to watch shows or play video games, along with fantasy cars to sit in. At Cookie Cutters, they specifically train their stylists to work with a child's individual needs. Stylists have even been known to give haircuts walking around the salon. Whatever it takes to make a child most comfortable, they will work around. Learn more at: www.haircutsarefun.com













4 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.

FLOWERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE SCHOOL STORE.

CARRY OUTS FOR LUNCH ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.

























ASK THE ADVOCATE





Ask The Advocate is a training series to help families and caregivers to prepare for the future of their loved ones who have disabilities. The topics covered will help you better navigate through the Special Education and Community Mental Health systems, help you to prepare financially while preserving government benefits, and give you the information you'll need to plan for your loved one's future goals.

Sep 12th	Supported Decision Making	Topics covered include person-centered planning, Power of Attorney, Patient Advocates, and Guardianship
Oct 10th	Creative Housing Options	Learn about the variety of ways to support individuals to lead a healthy life in a home of their choosing.
Nov 14th	Special Education Services	Hear representatives from Michigan Alliance for Families discuss skills that parents can use to become more effective advocates for your child with a disability.
Jan 9th	Navigating Medicaid Supports	Topics covered include how to apply for Medicaid and other benefits through Department of Health and Human Services, what Medicaid covers and how to access those services.
Feb 13th	Social Security Benefits	Topics covered include SSDI and SSI Benefits, qualification for benefits, and what is needed to apply
Mar 12th	Estate Planning	Learn creative ways to plan for your future including, wills and Letters of intent
Apr 9th	Special Needs Trusts	Learn how Special Needs Trusts differ from typical trusts, but can be an excellent addition to your Estate Plan. A Special Needs Trust can help to prepare for your loved one's future while ensuring they are eligible for government benefits.
May 14th	Community Employment Services	Learn about options for skill building, employment options, and ways to preserve benefits while working.

^{*}Registration is mandatory, minimum of five registrants needed to hold all sessions

For more information:

www.arcservices.org/asktheadvocate info@arcservices.org 586-439-5367

All sessions are 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
The Arc of Macomb
44050 North Gratiot Ave
Clinton Township MI, 48036

The Arc is dedicated to securing for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to choose where and how they learn, live, and work throughout their lifetimes in the community we share.



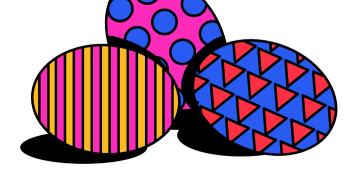
Home Hub Information

If your student is interested in attending Home Hub during the summer as well as when the Academy is closed, please contact Ms. Michelle Davis-Poeder at 586-806-6455 X2. Below is information regarding the process. Please note that a supports coordinator is required.

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

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.







Limited transportation assistance

Training Location:

Rising Stars Academy 23855 Lawrence Centerline, MI 48082

When:

Monday through Friday 8:30-1:00pm

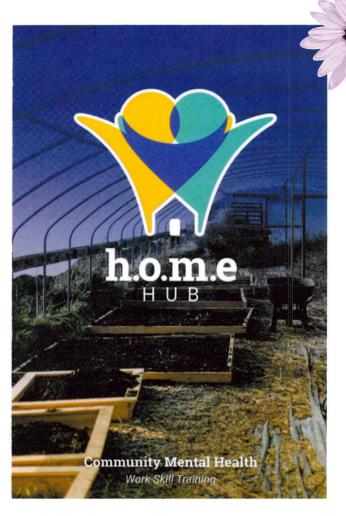
Contact Information:

Home Hub Manager: Michelle Davis-Poeder 586-806-6455 X2 mdavis-poeder@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
- 10. Willingness to learn



H.O.M.E. Hub is an innovative work-based learning program that promotes success in the workplace and in life.

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
- Agricultur
 - · Clerical
- Retail/Sales
 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.

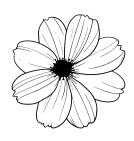












IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 25-29 NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK
APRIL 1 STUDENTS RETURN TO RSA
APRIL 5 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

STAFF REPORTS FOR PROF DEVELOPMENT

MAY 24-MAY 28 NO SCHOOL - MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

MAY 29 STUDENTS RETURN TO RSA

JUNE 14 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

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







23855 Lawrence St. Center Line, MI 48015

Phone: 586-806-6455 Fax: 586-806-6967

FB: https://www.facebook.com RisingStarsAcademyMI Instagram: #risingstaracademy

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.



