



RISING STARS

ACADEMY

A few Words from the Superintendent.....

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We have started 2024 off with a bang here at Rising Stars Academy with new programs and activities! Through our partnership with Official Driving School, we have started an optional 10 week long drivers education course to help our students get ready for the road.

We also started our elective courses last month. We brought back some old favorites as well as added in some new choices. This year students were able to choose from Advanced Cooking, Green Screen, Yoga/Meditation, Sign Language, Painting, Theater, Jewelry Making, Dance, Baked Goods, Library Club, Epoxy Arts, Production, and Mosaics & Paper Arts.

Our robotics team, Team Nebulas, has been working after school four days a week on their robot for their two upcoming robotics competitions in March.

During our last rotation, students have been working on a life skills unit about relationships. Students learned how to form and maintain healthy relationships with family, at work, at school, with romantic partners, with friends, and more.

Keep an eye out for our Friday updates, newsletters, and social media posts for updates. Communication is key, so please make sure to always communicate with the school if there are any issues that arise.

Emily Bregier

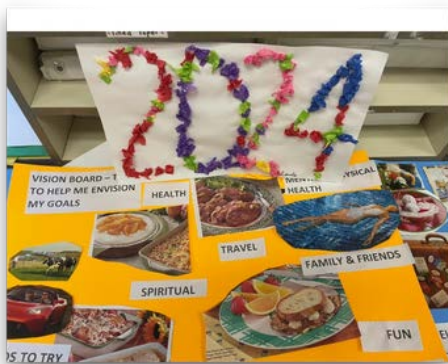


2024



Ms. Maureen's Classroom

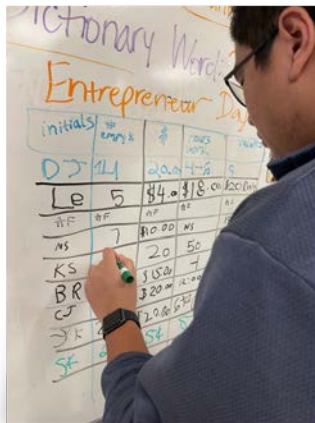
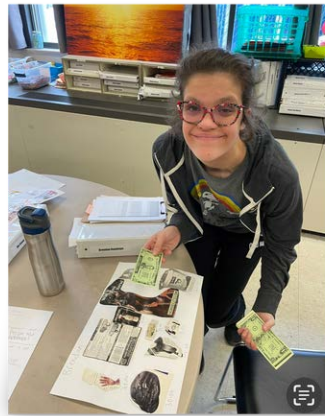
Students launched 2024 goal setting using a Vision (Image) board as their tool to help them envision their goals.



Martin Luther King Day was pre-celebrated with research at the library as well as having our own mock vigil to honor him.



Job skills highlights: We assumed mock roles as store owner entrepreneurs, identified products we would sell, what we would pay our employees, how many hours we would have them work a week as well as vacation days given. We also ‘shopped’ at each other’s stores, given the budgets we had. We assumed roles as Inventory Clerks with a variety of items noting how observant and careful we were to following directions.



Life skill highlights : Basic first aid skills using the five back blows for someone choking were practiced.

Voting importance and the process for registering was presented by Center Line's Deputy Clerk. To prepare, we held a mock voting to experience the impact of making our opinions count.



Tae Bo, aromatherapy, and shower bombs were coping techniques we learned and practiced.





Ms. Heather's Classroom

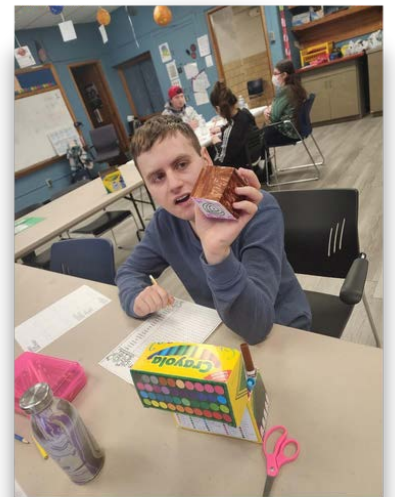
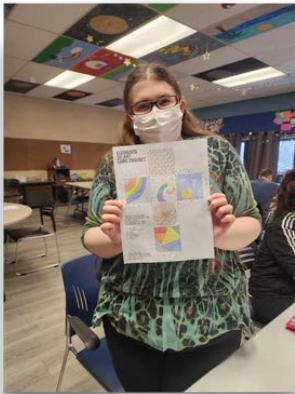
Ms. Heather's class has a couple new plants in the room. "Beastey", so named by the students, is an Umbrella plant and has already started to grow new leaves with our care. We are preparing to plant our spider plant pups that have rooted. We are painting more pots. The guppies continue to have more babies, too! Electives started and students were eager to learn new techniques for the electives they chose!





Ms. Sarah's Classroom

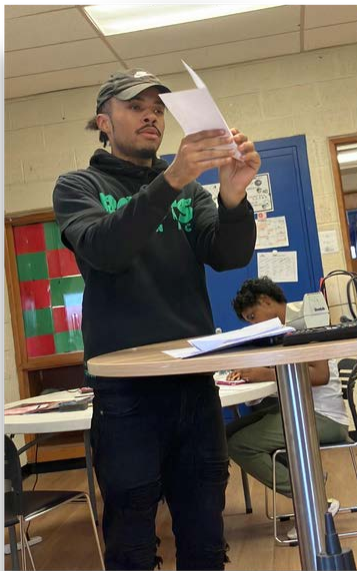
The students made 3D squares and decorated each square the way they wanted to! They were able to draw in detail, make patterns or just color it all their favorite colors! We talked about how each square was different and unique and that's ok!





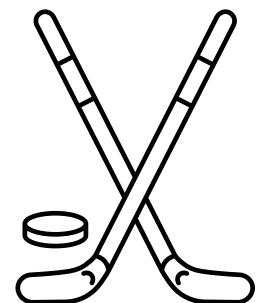
Ms. Maria's Classroom

In Ms. Maria's room, students were learning about how to work and communicate with each other. One student was teaching a lesson to the class. The group worked together to build what was taught to them by another student. The student leading the activity learned that he could not just talk at them or make demands and they would follow. The students had to learn how to work with their peers to get the job done.



Autism Awareness Night Big Boy Arena

On Saturday, January 27, RSA students were invited to attend Autism Awareness Night at Big Boy Arena by the Big City Rockers Pro Hockey Club. Paraprofessionals, Ms. Maggie and Ms. Nancy, volunteered to take students who were recognized in the program as well as the announcements as being in the RSA program. Fun was had by all! Thank you to Ms. Maggie and Ms. Nancy for your time, support, and assistance!



FRIDAY ELECTIVES

Second semester means Friday Electives! Students are able to sign up for electives that take place each Friday. Below are pictures of students participating in making jewelry, yoga, mosaic, and baked goods.

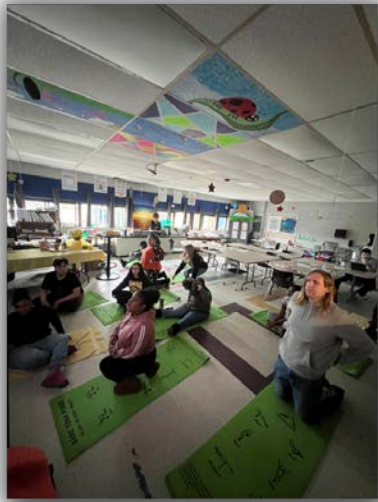
Baked Goods



Jewelry Creation



Yoga



Mosaic





10 NIGHT *Shine*

SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW**
FOUNDATION

YOU ARE INVITED

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024

6-9 PM

Join us for a prom night that you will never forget!
Walk the red carpet, enjoy the royal treatment and dance the night away.

For people with special needs 14+

HOSTED BY

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

47120 Romeo Plank Rd, Macomb, MI 48044

For more information and to register:
immlutheran.org/shine/ or 586.286.4231



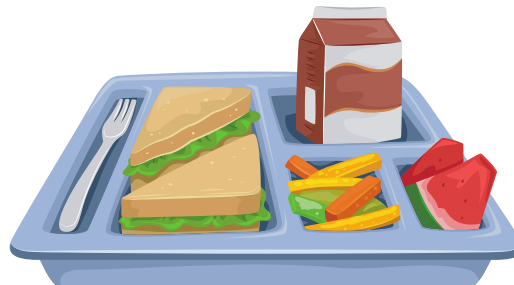
FEBRUARY 2024 LUNCH MENU



LUNCH Menu FEBRUARY 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Sloppy Joe Corn Tater Tots	2 Bagged Lunch: Turkey Sandwich Goldfish Fruit Carrots
5 Chicken Parmesan Green Beans Peaches	6 Hot Dog Tater Tots Baked Beans	7 Hot Turkey Sandwiches Mashed Potatoes Peas	8 Macaroni & Cheese Green Beans	9 Bagged Lunch: Turkey Sandwich Goldfish Apple
12 Chicken Tenders Tater Tots Green Beans	13 Bean Burrito Refried Beans	14 Chicken Pot Pie Applesauce	15 Calzone Marinara Sauce Salad	16 Bagged Lunch: Turkey Sandwich Goldfish
19 NO SCHOOL MID-WINTER BREAK	20 NO SCHOOL MID-WINTER BREAK	21 NO SCHOOL MID-WINTER BREAK	22 NO SCHOOL MID-WINTER BREAK	23 NO SCHOOL MID-WINTER BREAK
26 Chef's Salad Roll	27 Pizza Carrots Pears	28 Mexican Casserole Salad	29 Shepherd's Pie Peaches	

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



Gather + Grounds

Paczki Sale!

Tuesday, February 13, 2024



Cost: \$26.00 per dozen

Each dozen contains an assortment of the following flavors:

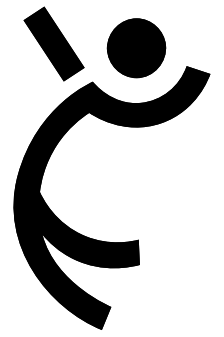
Raspberry, Strawberry, Custard, Butter Cream, Apple, and Lemon

Available while supplies last!

Gather + Grounds, 25709 Van Dyke, Center Line

Phone: (586) 501-3399

Hours: 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Troy Inclusive Music & Movement Class

Tuesdays (6 weeks)

February 20 – March 26, 2024

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

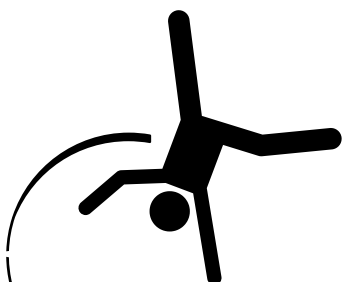
DNEM Troy Office or via Zoom

Register:

tinyurl.com/DNEMmusic

586-268-4160

REC-IT@DNEMichigan.org





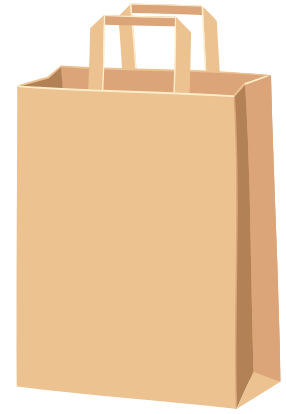
Michigan State Fair - 2024



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.





Join us for a REC-IT Class! Make Homemade Chocolates

Make your Valentine's Day a huge success by making homemade chocolates with Disability Network Eastern Michigan's REC-IT staff.



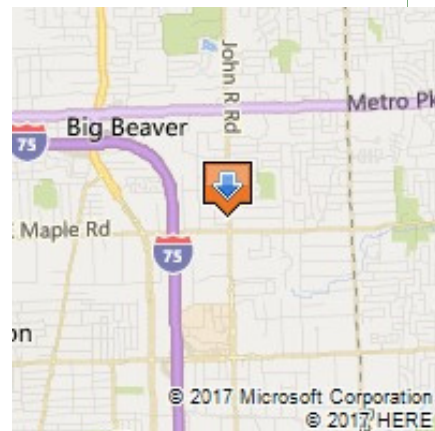
Only 12 spots are available!

When:

Wednesday, February 7,
2024 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Where:

Disability Network Eastern Michigan
[1709 John R Road](#)
[Troy, MI 48083](#)



Click [HERE](#) to Register for the REC-IT Class

If you have any questions or need help registering,
please call Rob Winn at (586) 268-4160 ext. 6630.



February Social Events

Friday February 9, 2024 from 6p-8p

Rochester MI Adaptive Needs Events – RARA Recreation Themed Dance

RARA Recreation (500 E Second Street, Rochester, Michigan 48307)

Hosted by RARA Recreation. This dance is designed for persons who have special needs. Music and dancing with a fun theme. Refreshments will be served. Cost is \$20 for residents & \$24 non-residents. Register via RARAREcreation.org. Each dance has a holiday theme (St Patrick's Day / Cinco De Mayo etc)

Friday, February 9, 2024 from 7p-9p

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 rec.troymi.gov.

Thursday, February 29, 2024 from 9:30a-2p

Troy Adaptive Needs Events – A Day at the Movies (at Troy MJR Theatre)

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Field trips for children and adults with adaptive needs. Pre-register by 9/8. Pre-registration required. For more info, visit rec.troymi.gov.





Spirit Club Zoom Meetings

The benefits of moving your body are endless! It can improve your brain function, strengthen your joints and muscles and help you live a healthier, more independent life by increasing your ability to do everyday activities. Join us from the comfort of your home in a judgement free environment to try a variety of workouts that include a high-intensity, baseline and seated version of strength training, balance, dance and yoga – no matter how you choose to move!

Virtually join us on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. and an in-person event on one Friday. Please complete the registration form to select your class times and for further details on the Friday in-person event and someone will reach out to you with further SPIRIT Club details.

<https://autismallianceofmichigan.org/event/spirit-club-zoom-meetings/2024-02-07/>

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>



Disability Network of Michigan

The Disability Network of Michigan has the following classes scheduled for the month of February, 2024. Please visit this link to see the monthly calendar. Then, click on the date/event you would be interested in. It will take you to the information needed to know what the class is about, hours, dates, and registration.

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

Classes include:

Virtual Cooking Club

Inclusive Art

Conversational ASL

Inclusive Music and Movement



easterseals | MORC



COSMETOLOGY & DENTAL SERVICES

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





Rising Stars Academy

**BOWLING
FUNDRAISER**

Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024

Location: Sterling Lanes

33200 Schoenherr Rd

Sterling Heights 48312

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20.00 each

(includes two games, shoe rental, pizza and pop)

50/50 Raffle

Basket Raffle (seeking donations)

Please fill out this form and return it by Monday, March 11, 2024.

Please include cash or check payable to "Rising Stars Academy".

of Bowlers x \$20.00 for each bowler: _____

Names of Bowlers (maximum of 5 bowlers per lane):



4 CIRCLES

STORE & CAFE

@RSA

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.
CARRY OUTS FOR LUNCH ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.**



“MAKE-A-DIFFERENCE” AWARD



2023 Nomination Form



The **“Make a Difference” Award** is given on an annual basis to individuals who have made a significant positive impact on the educational experience of a special needs student. **The nominee must be presently employed by a school district**

within Macomb County or the MISD. As parents, we feel that it is important to recognize these people who have had a positive effect on the lives of our children.

Please consider the following criteria when completing your nomination. The candidate for this award must have the following characteristics, but is not limited to:

- Communicate with you as a parent
- Excite students to reach their maximum potential
- Meet your child’s individual needs
- Help to increase your child’s self-esteem
- Demonstrate team member skills

Criteria on page 2 of this form supporting the nominee must be provided for

all nominations to qualify! Describe in detail the impact this special person has had on your child’s educational experience.

YOU ARE NOT LIMITED BY THIS FORM.
Feel free to include additional pages if needed.

You may nominate a teacher, paraprofessional, support personnel (OT, PT, social worker, psychologist, speech pathologist) or any school personnel who is involved in your child’s education.



Questions? Contact anyone listed below:

Shelley Petty
PAC Leadership Team
Luvbugsmom@gmail.com

Jennifer VanderMark
PAC Leadership Team
jennifervandermark20@gmail.com

Laura Miskelly
Special Education Management
Services
MISD
lmiskelly@misd.net

NOMINATION FORM

(Must be completed along with supporting criteria document. See back of form.)

NOMINEE	Name of M.A.D.A. NOMINEE	
	Position of Nominee (SE teacher, parapro, etc.)	
NOMINATED BY	Nominee works at (PLEASE CHECK ONE): <input type="checkbox"/> MISD <input type="checkbox"/> Middle School <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High School <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary	
	School District	School/Building Name
	Nominated By	
	Address	Email
	City & ZIP Code	Telephone Number
Does your child have a current IEP or IFSP in effect? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

TO NOMINATE, PLEASE:

Complete this page and the required supporting criteria form (attached)

Return both the nomination form and supporting criteria by **Friday, February 16, 2024** lmiskelly@misd.net

Return electronically to: lmiskelly@misd.net

Or send by **US Mail** to:
Laura Miskelly
Macomb ISD/Special Education
44001 Garfield Road
Clinton Twp., MI 48038

DEADLINE:
February 16, 2024

***OVER**

*MANDATORY—Criteria for Make A Difference Award Nominee

In order to best assist the PAC Leadership Team in their selection of this year's Make a Difference Award winners, please provide detailed examples of how your nominee qualifies in the following areas:

1. Communication with parent(s):

2. Helps child reach maximum potential and meets his/her needs:

3. Increases child's self-esteem:

4. Displays team member skills:

*Please provide any additional supporting comments below, in regard to your nominee and how he/she has made a significant positive impact in your child's educational experience (You may use additional sheets of paper, as *your response is not limited* by this form):

ASK THE ADVOCATE

2023-2024 SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS



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 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 Honor Yourself
o Observe Your Surroundings
m Manifest Your Dreams
e Explore 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:

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



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

FEBRUARY 14

FEBRUARY 19-23

MARCH 17

MARCH 25-29

APRIL 5

SPRING COUNT DAY

MID-WINTER BREAK - NO SCHOOL

RSA BOWLING FUNDRAISER

SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

STAFF REPORTS FOR PROF DEVELOPMENT



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

*Thank
you!*



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