

# RISING STARS ACADEMY

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

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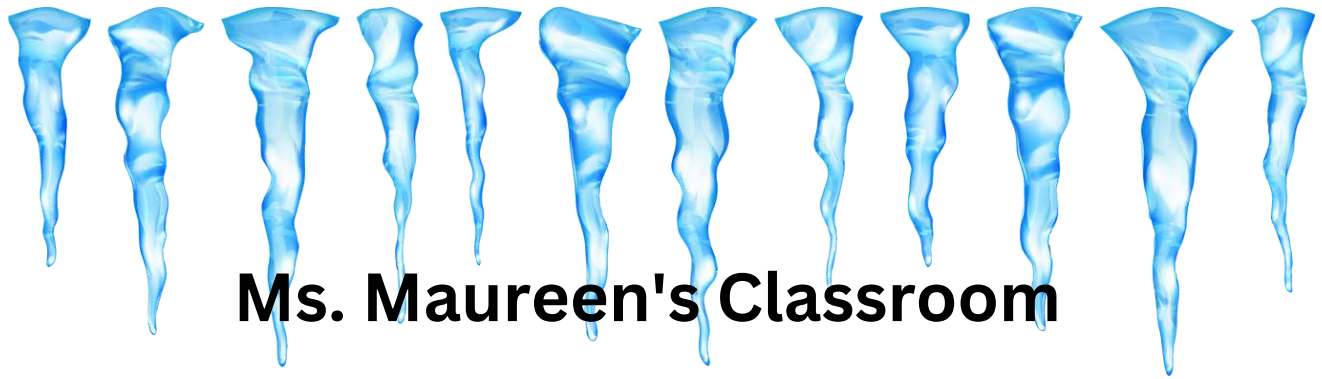
I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday season filled with joy, family, and friends. It is hard to believe it is already 2024! The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to refresh, whether you want to get a head start on your personal goals, build on your achievements, or put past challenges behind you. This is a great time to let go, start new, and be the best you can be.

Thank you for all you do each day to make Rising Stars Academy such an exciting and enjoyable place to learn, work, and play. It is because of our dedicated students, families, staff, and community partnerships that great things are in store for RSA in 2024. Let's make this year one of our best yet! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your students' caseload teacher or you can contact me at [ebregier@rsaonline.org](mailto:ebregier@rsaonline.org).

Sincerely,  
Emily Bregier

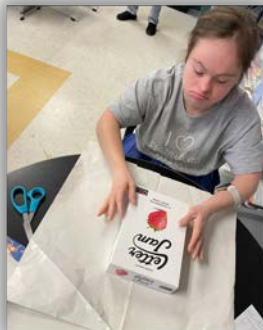


**2024**



## Ms. Maureen's Classroom

**Life Skills:** Ms. Maureen's classroom worked on budgeting with cost comparison shopping by visiting two different stores. They learned how to wrap gifts and gift etiquette. They learned about holiday fire safety prevention from the Center Line Fire department . Students wrote *'just because'* thank you notes and mailed them at a local mailbox.



**Job Skills:** Students researched and explored Biometrics paired with visiting the Center Line police station to observe the fingerprinting process for job applications. They learned about workplace etiquette as well as the do's and don'ts in the workplace. They explored the Department of Labor website and learned about jobs tasks, salaries and demand for jobs.



**Mental Health and Coping Techniques:** Students learned about and practiced Qi Gong and Acupressure. They also researched social media scams and how to have a safe online presence.



**Community:** Students explored the Warren Civic Center Library and Ice Rink.



# Ms. Heather's Classroom

Ms. Heather's class has been busy. Friendship bracelets, math groups, plant propagation, Glowforge projects, and flower pot painting are some of the activities students have been working on. With the birth of new fish in the classroom tank, students have also been learning about how guppies reproduce. The tank is so full of babies now we cannot count them all! Students are still cleaning up the school for the internal custodial job site.





# Ms. Sarah's Classroom

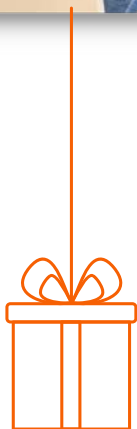
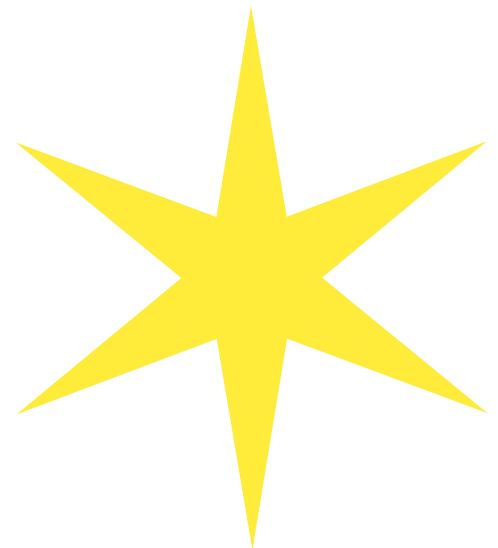
Students worked on putting together a food order. They were given an order and had to fulfill it just as the customer requested.





# Ms. Maria's Classroom

Ms. Maria's students created ornament boxes. They had to cut out and decorate the pages. They then followed instructions on how to fold the paper. Students also used popsicle sticks to create snowflake ornaments. These were used to decorate the classroom. Students the decided where the decorations would go.





# JANUARY LUNCH MENU

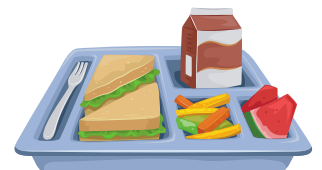
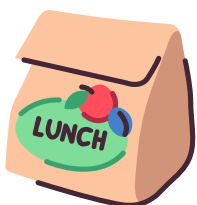
NEW  
YEAR



## LUNCH Menu JANUARY 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>2</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>3</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>4</b> Calzone Marinara Sauce Carrots	<b>5</b> Cheeseburger Tater Tots Green Beans
<b>8</b> Chicken Pot Pie	<b>9</b> Corn Dog Tater Tots Corn	<b>10</b> Eggroll in a Bowl	<b>11</b> Chicken Parmesan Salad	<b>12</b> Chef's Salad
<b>15</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>Staff Reports: Prof Dev</b>	<b>16</b> Chicken Tenders Tater Tots Green Beans	<b>17</b> Hot Turkey Sandwich Mashed Potatoes Peas	<b>18</b> Nachos Refried Beans	<b>19</b> Calzone Marinara Sauce Salad
<b>22</b> Macaroni & Cheese Green Beans	<b>23</b> Hot Dog Tater Tots Baked Beans	<b>24</b> Bean Burrito Refried Beans Corn Salsa	<b>25</b> Turkey Sandwich Goldfish Salad	<b>26</b> Mexican Casserole Salsa
<b>29</b> Calzone Marinara Sauce Salad	<b>30</b> Broccoli Cheese Soup w/Ham Roll	<b>31</b> Chicken Sandwich Goldfish Salad 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



Macomb ISD Inter-Agency Transition Council Presents:  
Navigating Employment with Social Security Income for Students  
with Disabilities

Seminar for Parents

Wednesday January 31, 2024

6:30-8:30 pm



Please join Arc's **Jennifer Vandermark, B.S.W., J.D.**, and Michigan Rehabilitation Services' **D'Anna Taggart, MA, CRC, LPC** as they discuss enhanced programs available to assist with all stages of seeking employment and navigating Social Security Income (SSI) for students with disabilities.

**Place: Macomb Intermediate School District**  
**44001 Garfield Road**  
**Clinton Township, 48038**  
**Room: 103a&b**

**FREE TO ATTEND**

***Registration is mandatory.***

**To register:**

Go to [events.misd.net](https://events.misd.net)

Select COURSE OFFERINGS tab on top

Select COMPLETE LIST OF COURSES/EVENTS on left

Login or Create New Account top of screen on right

Click SPECIAL NEEDS from gray box on the left

Select TRANSITION from dropdown

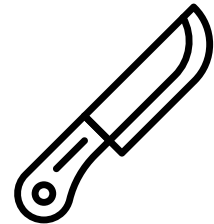
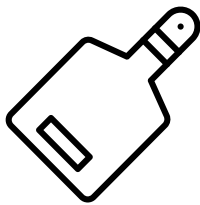
Find course





# Henry Ford Hospital

Henry Ford Hospital is an off campus job site. Students work in the hospital cafeteria creating, sorting, and/or packaging food items to be sold in the cafeteria.





ST. CLAIR SHORES PARKS AND  
RECREATION PRESENTS:

THE 4TH ANNUAL

# FROSTED FORMAL

ADAPTIVE FORMAL DANCE  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024  
7-10PM

TICKETS ON SALE \$30 IN ADVANCE ONLY.  
NO TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR  
REGISTER AT  
[HTTPS://PARKREGISTRATION.SCSMI.NET](https://parkregistration.scsmi.net)

AGES 10 AND UP  
(PARTICIPANTS UNDER 18 MUST BE  
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT)  
PAID ENTRY REQUIRED FOR ALL

ENCORE CATERING & BANQUET  
CENTER

21801 E. NINE MILE RD., ST. CLAIR  
SHORES, 48080



# ART

## TROY Inclusive Art Class



New Series!



2nd and 4th Tuesday  
**January 9 - March 27, 2024**  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm



**DNEM Troy office**  
1709 John R Road, Troy, MI 48083



**Register at [tinyurl.com/DNEMart](https://tinyurl.com/DNEMart)**  
or by contacting Carrie at 586-268-4160  
or [REC-IT@DNEMichigan.org](mailto:REC-IT@DNEMichigan.org).





# 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/](http://immlutheran.org/shine/) or 586.286.4231



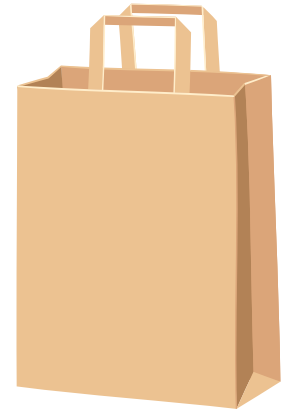
# Upcoming Events in 2024



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>

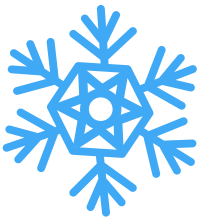




## **BAGS**

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.





# January Social Events

Oakland University: OUCARES Seasonal Programs offer the following:

After Hours Adult Social

Basketball

Bowling

Gaming

Individual Social Coaching

Judo

Movie Club

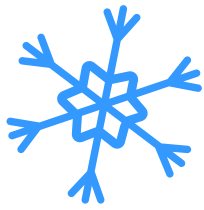
Social Connections for Adults

Structured Social and Communication Training for Adults

Uniquely Me: Women on the Spectrum Connect

Please visit the link below for information concerning each program and registration for same:

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



# Social Opportunities at Troy Recreation Dept.



## A Sneak Peek into January

December can get busy, so we want to let you know now what we have in store for January 2024. See the list below and register today!

[https://rec.troymi.gov/calendar.php?  
view=month&month=03&day=01&year=2022&calendar](https://rec.troymi.gov/calendar.php?view=month&month=03&day=01&year=2022&calendar)

- **Bowling**
  - Mondays, January 8–January 22 at 4 pm, located at 5 Star Lanes. Ages 5+. \$40 Res, \$50 Non-Res. Register with Activity #7327-A1. Registration required.
  -
- **NoteABLE Youth Musical Theater Workshop**
  - Thursdays, January 11–March 21 from 6:30–7:20 pm at Troy Community Center. Grades 6–12. \$65 Res, \$75 Non-Res. Register with Activity #7306-B1. Registration required.
  -
- **NoteABLE Youth Ensemble**
  - Wednesdays, January 24–April 24 from 6–6:50 pm at Troy Community Center. Grades 6–8. \$75 Res, \$85 Non-Res. Register with Activity #7306-A1. Registration required.
  -
- **Monday Mingle**
  - Monday, January 29 from 5:30–7 pm at Troy Community Center. Ages 14+. \$12 Res, \$15 Non-Res. Register with Activity #7376-A1. Registration required.

City of Troy Recreation: <https://mailchi.mp/troymi/adaptive112923>

If you need to apply for financial assistance for programs, please contact us at [adaptive@troymi.gov](mailto:adaptive@troymi.gov).

Our mailing address is:  
Troy Recreation Department  
3179 Livernois  
Troy, MI 48083





easterseals | MORC



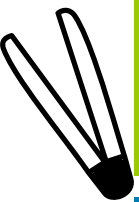
# COSMETOLOGY & DENTAL SERVICES

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

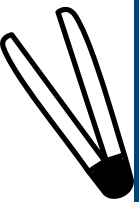
Our friends at Cutie Cuts offer haircuts, styling, detangling, and braiding for children by appointment only. They also offer a Quiet Room, which is sensory friendly for children that struggle with a sensory disorder or anxiety. This room allows children to receive salon services in a private calming 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](http://www.cutiecuts.com)

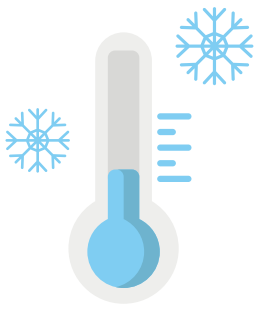


## COOKIE CUTTERS - HAIR CUTS FOR KIDS

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](http://www.haircutsarefun.com)





COLD



# 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.**



# 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](http://www.arcservices.org/asktheadvocate)

[info@arcservices.org](mailto: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

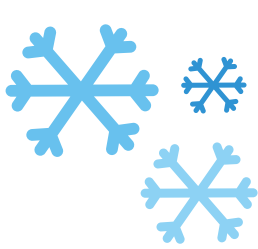
If your student is interested in attending Home Hub during the summer as well as when the Academy is closed, please contact Mr. Ryan Moir at 586-806-6455 or 248-508-1651 (cell). Below is information regarding the process. Please note that a supports coordinator is required.

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

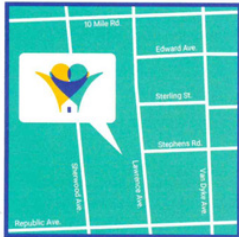
For Oakland County, call 248-464-6363. Please be aware that only Community Living Services (CLS) in Oakland County will approve individuals to attend our program.

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** 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:**

Ryan Moir  
 586-806-6455 Ext. 2  
 rmoir@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
- Hospitality
- Retail/Sales
- Janitorial
- Agricultural
- Clerical
- Money Management
- Independent Living
- Do-It-Yourself
- The Employment Process
- Healthy Eating
- Personal Advocacy

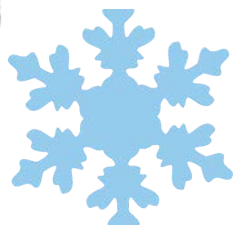
**Admission Criteria:**

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.





## IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 4, 2024  
JANUARY 15  
JANUARY 29  
FEBRUARY 14  
FEBRUARY 19-23  
MARCH 25-29

RETURN TO SCHOOL  
NO SCHOOL - STAFF REPORTS PROF DEV  
SECOND SEMESTER STARTS  
SPRING COUNT DAY  
MID-WINTER BREAK  
SPRING BREAK



## 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](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.

