



RISING STARS

ACADEMY

A few Words from the Superintendent.....

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We cannot believe it is already October! The first month of school flew by as everyone settled into the school year. Students have been busy with internal job sites, including the reopening of the 4 Circles Store & Cafe, and look forward to starting external job sites mid-October.

In the classroom, students have been learning about safety. They have been reviewing safety in the kitchen, in the classroom, in the community, and on the internet. During our next rotation, students will be starting their self care unit. Students will engage in activities that teach them how to keep their minds and bodies healthy.

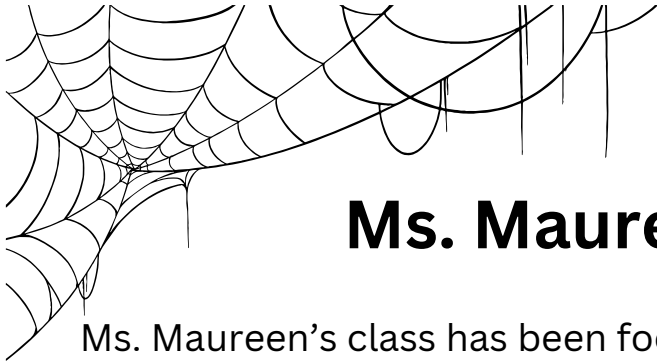
The Student Showcase will be here before we know it! Please join us on October 5th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. to see students working in their classrooms and around the school showing off what they have been working on so far this year. Our students love to show others what they can do and are very proud of all their accomplishments.

Please remember that there are two days in October that we do not have school: Friday, October 6th and Tuesday, October 31st. If you have any questions, please email me at ebregier@rsaonline.org or reach out to your student's caseload teacher.

Emily Bregier



2023



Ms. Maureen's Classroom

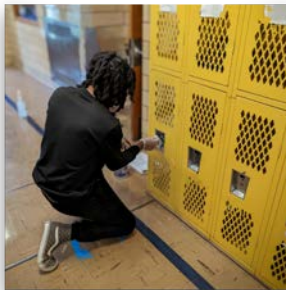
Ms. Maureen's class has been focusing on physical and mental safety including hands only CPR as well as learning about the newly revamped #988 Mental Health phone, text and chat line. Students role played making a #988 call as well as made #988 posters. Students visited the Maybelle Burnette Library. They also designed, assembled and assigned a cost to a toy prototype and used their money skills to purchase prototypes that interested them. Students created wallet cards and performed science experiments to understand chemical reactions that trigger "happy chemicals" to help in stressful situations.

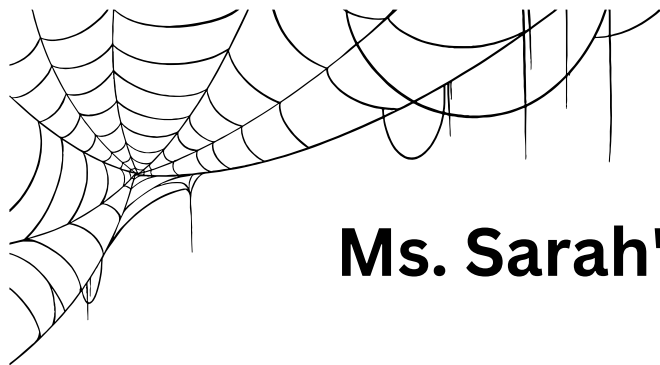




Ms. Heather's Classroom

Ms. Heather's class has been working on social skills and brain teasers. Students are learning about different types of plant care and taking care of our classroom plant named Jahseh. Students have also been learning about recycling and cleaning up the neighborhood. They have also been learning the internal jobsite of custodial and keeping the school clean. Recently, students have been preparing for the Student Showcase and Night Under The Stars by creating out of this world decorations.





Ms. Sarah's Classroom

The students worked on making asteroid launchers. They used popsicle sticks, rubber bands, glue and a spoon to build them. They then tested them out to see how well they worked. They brainstormed possible ways to make the launchers and then made their visions a reality.

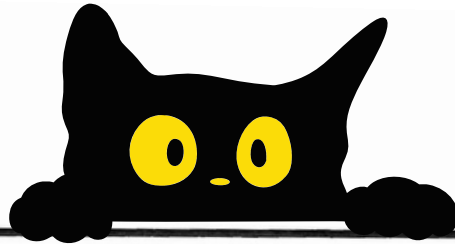




Ms. Maria's Classroom

Students had a great time at Field Day. They were able to do many team bonding activities led by De La Salle. The high schoolers chose to spend the day with our students for their service day. Students enjoyed working together as a team to accomplish a goal. Field Day is always something they look forward to and this one did not disappoint.





"STERLING FRIGHTS" Halloween



Check out the exciting events, attractions and cast of characters coming this October to the 9th Annual "Sterling Frights" Halloween Party.

Saturday, October 21

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Dodge Park

Ages - 12 years and younger



We will also be collecting non-perishable food items to support local food banks.

- Live music
- Hay rides
- Straw Maze
- Cider & donuts
- Candy for all participants
- Photo opportunities
- Inflatable Activities
- Rides
- Much More

Sponsored by:





RISING STARS
FOUNDATION

Night Under the **STARS**

Thursday,
October

5

4:00PM

STUDENT SHOWCASE
6:30PM | DINNER



TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Call (586) 806-6455 or visit rising-stars-academy.org

STUDENT SHOWCASE, 4:00-6:00PM | \$20

A demonstration of the students' skills and achievements throughout the building.

DINNER, 6:30PM | \$200

A Chef-prepared meal and wine pairing in our beautiful hoop houses, online silent auction and much more!





LOCAL NEWS

Rising Stars helps developmentally disabled hone life skills

Gather + Grounds offers social skills development, work experience



Culinary students at the Rising Stars Academy in Center Line prepare meals for distribution. (PHOTO BY SUSAN SMILEY)

By **SUSAN SMILEY** | ssmiley@medianewsgroup.com | Macomb Daily

PUBLISHED: September 18, 2023 at 8:51 a.m. | UPDATED: September 18, 2023 at





In the 1967 classic film “To Sir With Love” teacher Mark Thackeray nixes textbooks and begins teaching his students life skills.

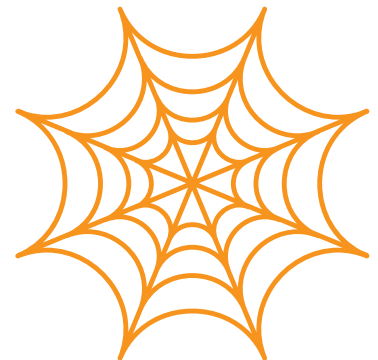
Rising Stars Academy founders Deborah and Mark Prentiss are using that same philosophy for their charter school and foundation that teaches work, life and social skills to intellectually and developmentally disabled students.

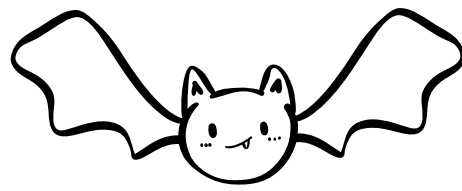
The Rising Star Academy charter school, located in Center Line, has 110 students between the ages of 18 and 26 years old; the Rising Star Home Hub community mental health skill building program for people who are ineligible for the academy because they have a high school diploma or are over 26 years old has 90 clients.

“We do teach money math because that is something they need to know – how to make change and things like that,” Deborah Prentiss said. “But we are really teaching job skills.”

The school has a 2.5 acre garden and small orchard complete with chickens where students can learn about agriculture. There are opportunities to get hands-on experience with culinary arts, light carpentry, flower arranging, aquaponics, crafts and more.

“We have our retail store, which is being reworked right now, where we sell popcorn, goods made at the school bakery and artwork and crafts made by the students,” Prentiss said. “Sometimes we make jellies and things like that too that we sell.”





The Gather + Grounds coffee bistro gives Rising Star Academy culinary students a chance to hone their social skills. (PHOTO BY SUSAN SMILEY)

Just a mile away from the campus, Gather + Grounds coffee bistro on Van Dyke Avenue in Center Line gives Rising Star students the chance to take their skills outside of the school building. The opportunity to develop social skills is equally as important — if not more so — than putting culinary skills to work.

“The hardest thing to teach these kids, which is why we developed Gather + Grounds, is social skills,” said Prentiss. “You can teach them a skill and they will do it day in and day out because they’re good at it, but they do not understand the social part of work.”

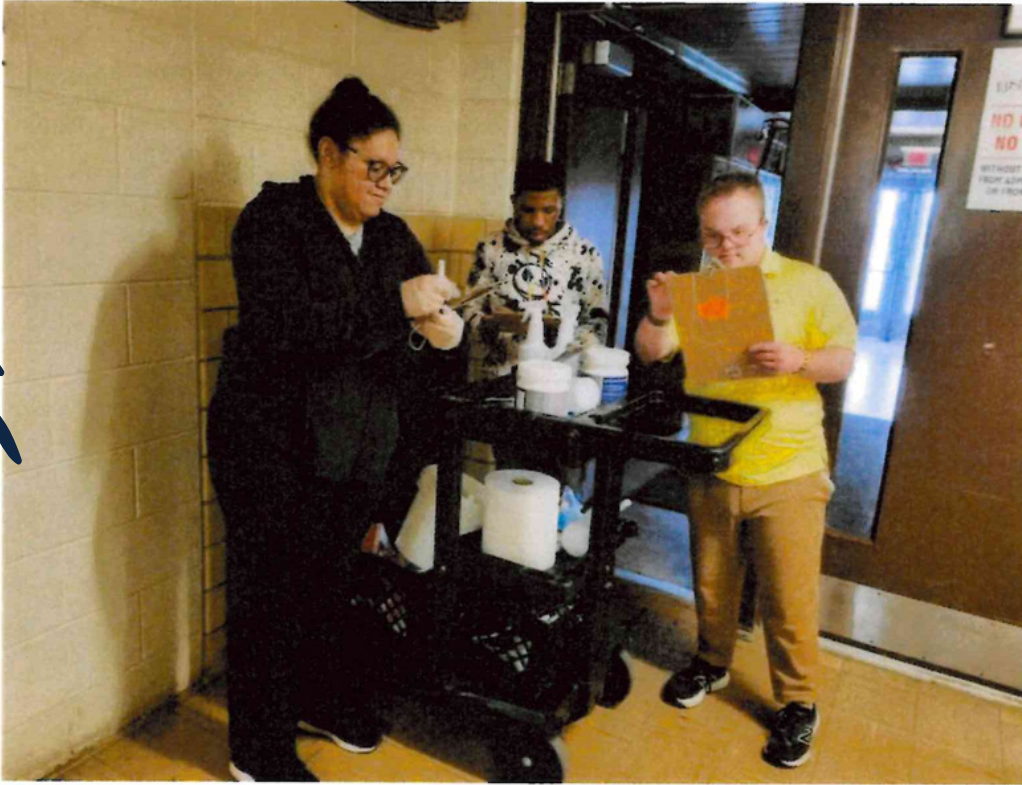
There are internal jobs for students including food production, cleaning, and clerical work in the school’s front office. Rising Stars also places students at remote job sites including Freedom Hill and various local restaurants.

The Donald Campbell Bakery within the school supplies bread and pastry products to many establishments including Green Dot Stables in Detroit, Comerica Park, Little Caesars Arena, Matt & Mo’s Italian Beef in Hazel Park, Brown Iron Brewhouse in Royal Oak and The Godfrey Detroit hotel in Detroit.

On a typical afternoon, culinary students might be baking slider buns for Green



“This has really put Rising Stars on the map.”



Students at the Rising Stars Academy in Center Line are responsible for cleaning areas of the school as part of their job skills training. (PHOTO BY SUSAN SMILEY)

Deborah and Mark Prentiss previously taught in the Warren Consolidated Schools district and started Rising Stars because they believed there was a void that needed to be filled.

“The state refers to us as an anomaly because there is no one quite like us,” said Prentiss. “We do what we do.”

Rising Stars Academy opened in 2013; Gather + Grounds opened in April of 2024 and is open Monday – Friday from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. – noon.

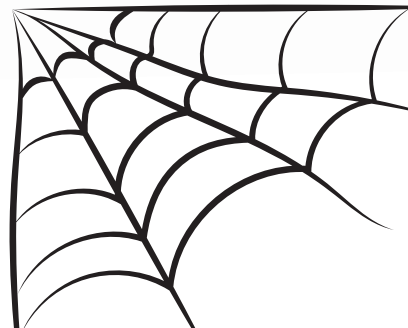
For more information, visit rising-stars-academy.org or gather-grounds.com.



"Sterling Special" October Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Adaptive Yoga 5-6pm	4	5 Adaptive Kickball Last Game! 5:30-7 p.m.	6	7
8	9 In-service All buildings closed 9 a.m.-5 p.m.	10 Adaptive Yoga 5-6pm	11	12	13 Unplug and Play "Halloween Hoopla" 6-8 p.m.	14 Artist Inside "Spooky Houses" 11-12:30 p.m.
15	16	17 Adaptive Yoga 5-6pm	18 Creative Community "Halloween Sun Catchers" 10-11:30 a.m.	19	20	21 Sterling Frights 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
22	23	24 Prep like a Pro "Savory Soups" 6-7 p.m.	25	26	27 Monster Mash Dance 6-9 p.m.	28 Bingo Halloween "Candy-Palooza" 12 p.m.
29	30	31 				

This calendar is for the City of Sterling Heights, Parks & Recreation from their recent "Sterling Special" newsletter. The newsletter focuses on adaptive recreation services. For more information, please call 586-446-2700.



Macomb ISD Inter-Agency Transition Council Presents:

Turning 18: 101 - Planning for the Future

Seminar for Parents

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

6:30—8:30 p.m.



Please join **Jennifer Vandermark, B.S.W., J.D.** , as she discusses the important challenges of future planning!

Topics Jennifer will discuss include:

- Supported Decision Making (Guardianship/Power of Attorney)
- Income
- Medicaid
- Macomb County Community Mental Health (CMH)
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Place: Macomb Intermediate School District

44001 Garfield Road

Clinton Township, 48038

Room: Central Training Rooms

FREE TO ATTEND

Registration is mandatory.

To register:

Go to events.misd.net

Select COURSE OFFERINGS tab on top

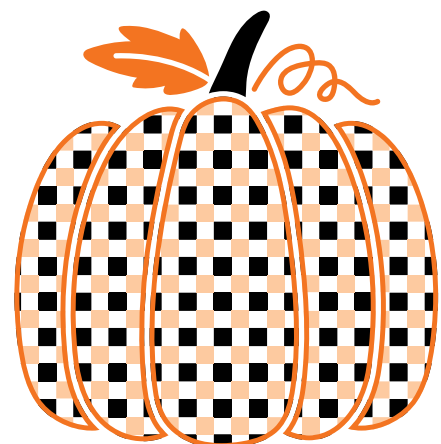
Select COMPLETE LIST OF COURSES/EVENTS on left

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





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



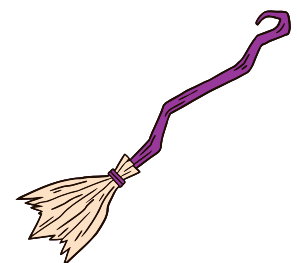
Ask The Advocate is a training series to help families and caregivers to prepare for the future of their loved ones who have disabilities. The topics covered will help you better navigate through the Special Education and Community Mental Health systems, help you to prepare financially while preserving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

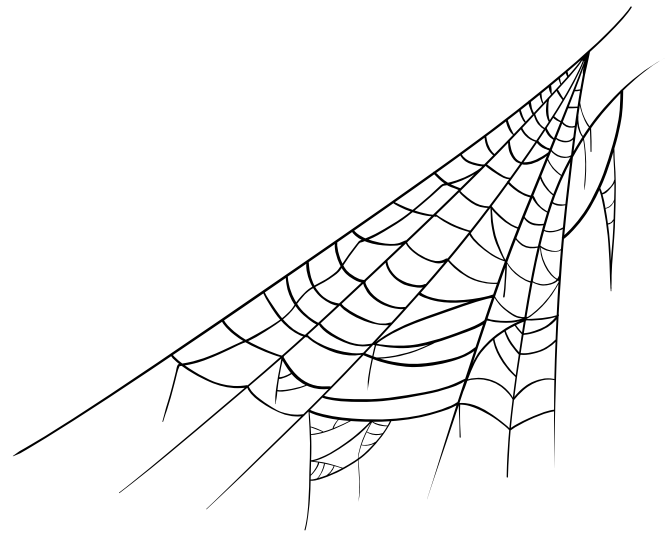
Sep 12th	Supported Decision Making	Topics covered include person-centered planning, Power of Attorney, Patient Advocates, and Guardianship
Oct 10th	Creative Housing Options	Learn about the variety of ways to support individuals to lead a healthy life in a home of their choosing.
Nov 14th	Special Education Services	Topics covered will include Dispute Resolution
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
deneen.davis@arcservices.org
 586-630-3046
 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.



Honor Yourself

Observe Your Surroundings

Manifest Your Dreams

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

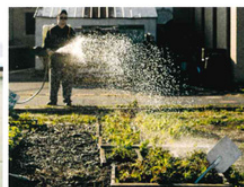
Admission Criteria:

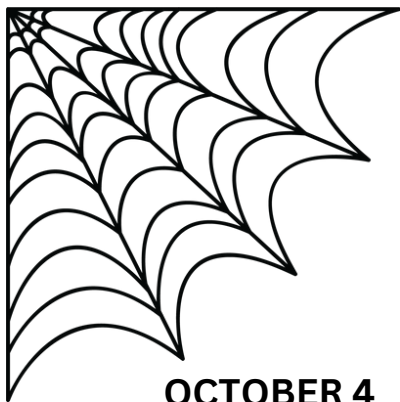
Our goal is to provide quality work-based/skill-building learning opportunities that produce outcomes desired by program participants. Intake staff will consider all applications and try to be flexible in meeting individual needs. Applicants MUST meet the following criteria to begin the intake process:

- 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

OCTOBER 4
OCTOBER 5

COUNT DAY
STUDENT SHOWCASE 4 PM - 6 PM
NIGHT UNDER THE STARS 6:30 PM

OCTOBER 6
OCTOBER 31
NOVEMBER 23
NOVEMBER 24

NO SCHOOL
NO SCHOOL (STAFF REPORTS)
NO SCHOOL (THANKSGIVING)
NO 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 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