



# RISING STARS ACADEMY

**WELCOME  
BACK!**

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

### Contents

Pg 2 RSA Staff

Pg 4 Grand Opening -  
Gather + Grounds

Pg 5 Night Under the Stars

Pg 6 Sterling Special

Pg 7 Four Circles Cafe'

Pg 8 Ask the Advocate

Pg 9 Home Hub

Pg 11 Important Dates

Pg 12 Resources

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We were happy to see our new and returning students walk through the door on the first day of school. Everyone is settling in and eager to learn and explore new opportunities.

We welcomed new families at Parent Night on August 28th. Staff also spent the end of August participating in various professional development like charting IEP goals, creating centers and stations, improving the schools safety and security, and planning for the year using our 5 core values: Integrity, Respect, Community, Ingenuity, and Purpose & Positivity.

We look forward to a wonderful school year here at Rising Stars Academy!

Emily Bregier



# RSA STAFF



Emily Bregier  
Superintendent



Kelly Donovan  
Paraprofessional



Latife Dove  
Paraprofessional



Annie Downie  
Paraprofessional/Job Coach



Maureen Dyar  
Teacher



Kutrice Flanders  
Paraprofessional



Nancy Forster  
Paraprofessional/Job Coach



Conor Gianotti  
Paraprofessional/Job Coach



Sarah Grzebyk  
Teacher



Tom Iwanicki  
Paraprofessional/Job Coach



LuAnne Jones  
Paraprofessional/Job Coach



Diane King  
Paraprofessional/Job Coach



Angie Knopek  
Paraprofessional



Olivia Knopek  
Paraprofessional



Heather Kubik  
Teacher in Training



Maria Maples  
Teacher



Marsha Salome  
Front Office



Jennifer Slagle  
Paraprofessional/Job Coach



Sana Sheikh  
Paraprofessional



John Turpin  
Director Safety & Security





# GRAND OPENING!

**Saturday,  
September 23rd  
9am - 12pm**

**Bring  
the  
whole  
family!**

- face painting
- cornhole
- free samples
- enter to win gift basket
- music

**Gather  
+ GROUND  
EST 2022**

**25709 Van Dyke  
Centerline, MI**



Place an online order by  
scanning the QR code







**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](http://rising-stars-academy.org)

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

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

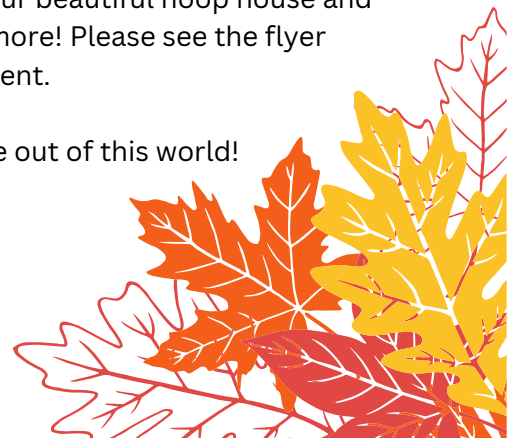
### DINNER, 6:30PM | \$200

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

It is almost time for our annual fundraiser, Night Under the Stars! This exclusive event will be held at Rising Stars Academy on Thursday, October 5th. Please come early for the student showcase, from 4:00-6:00 pm, where students will hold demonstrations of skills and achievements throughout the building. Students will be preparing and serving appetizers throughout the school and showcasing projects they have worked on so far this school year.

Following the showcase, an elegant chef prepared meal will be served in our beautiful hoop house and gardens at 6:30 pm. There will be wine pairings, a live auction, and much more! Please see the flyer above for information concerning ticket purchase information for each event.

Please join us for one or both of our events. We guarantee the night will be out of this world!



# "Sterling Special"

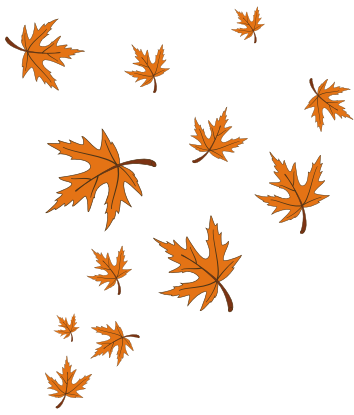
## September Calendar



SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day- All Buildings Closed  Splash Pad Last Day!!	5	6  Adaptive Bike Club 6-8 p.m.	7 Dodge Park Farmers Market 3-8 p.m.  Adaptive Kickball 5:30-7 p.m.	8  Unplug and Play "One Last Luau" 6-8 p.m.	9
10	11	12  Adaptive Yoga 5-6 p.m.	13 Creative Community "Leaf Paintings" 10-11:30 a.m.  Adaptive Bike Club 6-8 p.m.	14 Dodge Park Farmers Market 3-8 p.m.  Adaptive Kickball 5:30-7 p.m.	15  Rockin' Rodeo Dance 6-9 p.m.	16
17	18	19  Adaptive Yoga 5-6 p.m.	20  Adaptive Bike Club 6-8 p.m.	21 Dodge Park Farmers Market 3-8 p.m.  Adaptive Kickball 5:30-7 p.m.	22	23
24	25	26 Prep like a Pro "Cozy Crockpot Meals" 6-7 p.m.  Adaptive Yoga 5-6 p.m.	27	28 Dodge Park Farmers Market 3-8 p.m.  Adaptive Kickball 5:30-7 p.m.	29	30  Artist Inside "Basket of Apples" 11-12:30 p.m.

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.





# 4 CIRCLES

## STORE & CAFE

@RSA



### **FOUR CIRCLES STORE & CAFE**

**PHONE: 586-806-6455 X133 (CAFE)**

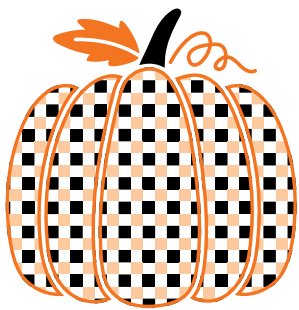
**STORE HOURS:**

**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.**





# 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](http://www.arcservices.org/asktheadvocate)  
[deneen.davis@arcservices.org](mailto: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 with 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
- 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

SEPTEMBER 5	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
OCTOBER 4	COUNT DAY
OCTOBER 5	STUDENT SHOWCASE 4 PM - 6 PM
	NIGHT UNDER THE STARS 6:30 PM
OCTOBER 6	NO SCHOOL
OCTOBER 31	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS/STAFF REPORTS



## 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!





# 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.



Think Big