



## RMU Trees Network February 2024 Newsletter

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**FREE Virtual Family/Parent Meeting**  
**Individualized Education Plan (IEP)**  
**Accommodations and Modifications**  
**Monday, March 4, 2024 7 PM - 8 PM**

Specially Designed  
Instruction



RMU is excited to host Mrs. Ashley Beeson, Moon Area School District's Director of Pupil Services, for our next meeting. She will be sharing her knowledge and expertise on IEP accommodations and modifications, how they are determined, how/when/where they are delivered, AND she will be available for all of your questions!

**To register for this virtual event, please email Vicki at [donne@rmu.edu](mailto:donne@rmu.edu) or [hiltzd@rmu.edu](mailto:hiltzd@rmu.edu) or complete the follow registration form: [Registration](#)**

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### Individual IEP Meetings and/or Conferences



March's parent meeting is going to cover Individual Education Plans (IEPs). However, we can all agree that IEPs can be intimidating, lengthy, and confusing. To further help and assist parents and families, we have set aside 9 AM - 3 PM on Mondays in March to meet with individual parents who have IEP related questions. We are not attorneys but we do speak the language of special educators and are available to listen and help you navigate the language and process of special education. If you want to know more about what should be included specific to your child, timelines, how to read assessment data, goals, etc., we are here to help you. Please email Deanna Hiltz at [hiltzd@rmu.edu](mailto:hiltzd@rmu.edu) for a morning meeting or Vicki Donne at [donne@rmu.edu](mailto:donne@rmu.edu) for an afternoon time.

## Exciting Upcoming Events Around the Area



**Open Up** is having a FREE Inclusive Spring Break Camp from **March 25th-29th** for school-aged students at their Lawrenceville studio. Campers will practice yoga and mindfulness, make crafts, and play some interactive games. Click [Here](#) for their webpage and a place to apply. <https://www.open-up.org/>

Art & Zumba by **Not Forgotten Home and Community Services (Studio Forget-Me-Not!)** in partnership with the Baierl Family YMCA.

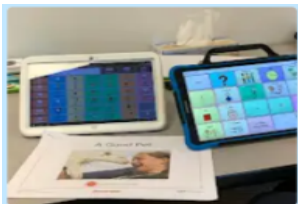
**Fridays at 1:00PM** - C-Art with Kristen. Free but you must sign up!

**Fridays at 3PM** - Zumba with Maryanne. Free but you must sign up!

Located at the Baierl Family YMCA, 2565 Nicholson Road, Sewickley, PA 15143

All classes are free, but donations are happily accepted. Please register at [www.nfhcs.org](http://www.nfhcs.org)

Join **Band Together Pittsburgh** at **Achieving True Self's** Center for Achievement on Sunday, February 18th for an afternoon of music and mingling! Band Together Pittsburgh brings the instruments and the mics, you bring yourselves and your love of singing, playing, and more. Light refreshments served and free of charge. The center is located at 1015 Pennsylvania Avenue near downtown Irwin. RSVP to Melissa at [mhumberger@achievingtrueself.com](mailto:mhumberger@achievingtrueself.com)



### **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Open House Workshop Delivers Strong Language Message**

We had the pleasure of having Speech Language Pathologists Marleah Herman-Umpleby and Linnea McAfoose of Interact Therapy and Lauren Vorbach of Reach for Speech on campus to talk about Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) and how it positively impacts its users. Not only did they provide a depth of knowledge, myths about AAC, and its application, but they brought several high tech devices to allow attendees to explore and use. Additionally, attendees were able to try some of the RMU assistive devices in our center. It was a great night of empowering communication.

## Resources for Parents and Educators

The Network provides resources for parents and teachers and these resources can be found at the [RMU Trees Network Website](#) . Information on RMU Trees is also posted on the RMU website and the previous newsletters can be read and viewed at <https://www.rmu.edu/academics/provost/trees>. In each newsletter we provide links to resources of topics discussed in our parent meetings and workshops as well as other information that may be helpful to families, schools, and the community. This month, we are including some resources on augmentative alternative communication (AAC).



**Interact Therapy** <https://www.interacttherapy.net/> Passionate speech and language therapy practice built on a shared vision of providing customized, evidence-based, and culturally sensitive services to our clients.

**American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)** ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for audiologists, speech-language pathologists, speech, language, and hearing scientists, audiology and speech-language pathology assistants, and students. Their vision is making effective communication, a human right, accessible and achievable for all.  
<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/aac/>

**Communication Matters** Communication Matters exists to support people who use AAC in their basic human right to communicate, be included and heard in an equitable society. <https://www.communicationmatters.org.uk/what-is-aac/>

**Tobii Dynavox** <https://us.tobiidynavox.com/> Tobii Dynavox's mission is to make groundbreaking assistive technology and communication solutions to give people with disabilities a voice.

**What is AAC?** <https://www.tobiidynavox.com/pages/what-is-aac>

**Project Core** The primary goals of Project Core are to empower teachers and classroom professionals to deliver access to vocabulary and communication instruction during the naturally occurring day. They also hope to improve the academic achievement of students with significant disabilities as evidenced by gains in their communication and literacy skills.

[Project Core – A Stepping-Up Technology Implementation Grant Directed by the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies \(project-core.com\)](#)

**Proloquo2Go** Proloquo is a new, groundbreaking AAC app designed for non speaking children and adults learning language through AAC. [Proloquo2Go - AAC app with symbols - AssistiveWare](#)

**Saltillo** Saltillo's mission is to allow people with disabilities to participate in- and enjoy- life to the fullest. They are committed to providing helpful solutions for people with adaptive living needs. [Lite-tech Communication Board Options \(saltillo.com\)](https://www.saltillo.com)

## RMU Trees Network Contact

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