



RMU Trees Network March 2024 Newsletter



Upcoming Summer Camp Parent Meeting - APRIL 8th

Join us on Monday, April 8th for our next parent meeting focusing on Summer Camps. We have reached out to organizations and camps around the area to present on what students with disabilities will learn, benefit, and take away. Some of these camps and programs can also be used as your child's Extended School Year (ESY) programming. We have representatives from Camp Laugh-A Lot (Washington), Envision Blind Sports, Hilltop Horizons (Aliquippa), Longhorn Summer Camp (Mars), Open Up (Lawrenceville), and The Woodlands (Wexford) presenting and will be available for questions. This presentation will meet LIVE virtually from 7 PM - 8 PM on Monday, April 8th. Anyone interested in learning more can register for the meeting by contacting Vicki Donne at donne@rmu.edu or Deanna Hiltz at hiltzd@rmu.edu or completing the following form: [Registration Form](#)

Individual IEP Meetings and/or Conferences



Since our March parent meeting covered Individual Education Plans (IEPs), we have set aside hours from 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 to set up a morning meeting or Vicki Donne at 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/>

SAVE THE DATE! **RMU Trees Network** and **Band Together** are hosting a Game Night on **Friday, April 12** from **6PM to 8PM**. See Band Together Pittsburgh's website for registration details. <https://bandtogetherpgh.org/events/>

A Night to Remember. To register go to <https://discoverypgh.com/anighttoremember>. The Event is set for Sunday, May 18th.

Legacy Fitness has joined forces with **Butler County Community Colleges** in a partnership to invite all members of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities community to participate in an event led by Legacy Fitness instructors with the BC3 Basketball team and students to assist in activities to teach everyone that fitness in fun for every age and stage of life! Registration is required for this FREE event. For more information or to register contact Katie Werner @ 724-991-7299 or LegacyFitnessButler@gmail.com

On **March 15th** from **6 PM - 8 PM** there will be a St. Patrick's Dance hosted by **Recreation Alliance of North Pittsburgh**. Music and light refreshments will be provided. The dances are open to all ages but recommend that young participants are accompanied by an adult. If you are interested in attending or volunteering contact RANP at <https://ranp.recdesk.com/community/program>

The **Best Buddies Friendship Walk** is the leading event in the country supporting inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Join 50,000 participants at 70+ Walks across the globe to support the Best Buddies programs in schools, workplaces, and communities. You'll be making the world more welcoming to people with IDD — one friendship, one job, and one life-changing connection at a time. The Best Buddies Friendship Walk is on **April 7th** at **9:30 AM** at Highmark Stadium. <https://www.bestbuddiesfriendshipwalk.org/pittsburgh>

Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Accommodations and Modifications Family/Parent Meeting Highlights

On Monday, March 4, the RMU Trees Network had the pleasure of having Mrs. Ashley Beeson, Moon Area School District's Director of Pupil Services, present to our parents and families. She shared her knowledge and expertise on IEP accommodations and modifications, how they are determined, and how/when/where they are delivered. She answered many questions and gave attendees clear distinctions of the two commonly misused adaptations.



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 IEPs and accommodations and modifications.



Educational Rights and IEPs from Peal Center [Educational Rights and IEPs](#)

Frequently Asked Questions about Special Education from PA Families, Inc. [FAQ special education](#)

IEP Accommodations, Modifications, and Strategies [Specially Designed Instruction](#)

Parent Guide for Special Education for School-Aged Children from PaTTAN [Parent Guide](#)

PROGRESS Center provides information, resources, tools, and technical assistance to support local educators and leaders (kindergarten through transition age) in developing and implementing high-quality educational programs. [Promoting Progress](#)

RMU Trees Network Contact

6001 University Boulevard
335 Patrick Henry Trees Network Office Suite
Moon Township, PA 15108

Vicki Donne, RMU Trees Network Director,
University Professor, Education Department, SNEHS
donne@rmu.edu
412-397-5465

Deanna Hiltz, RMU Trees Network Outreach Specialist, Part-Time Faculty
hiltzd@rmu.edu
412-397-6058
[RMU Trees Website](#)
<https://www.facebook.com/RMUtrees/>

