



RMU Trees Network May 2024 Newsletter

SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming Special Education Conference

On Monday, October 14, 2024, the RMU Trees Network will be holding its annual Special Education Conference. This year the theme is Nurturing Potential in Every Learner. It is being held virtually to allow for more participation from special educators, administrators, paraprofessionals, and related service staff looking for professional development on important topics in special education.

SAVE THE DATE

RMU Trees Network Special Education Conference Nurturing Potential in Every Learner

October 14, 2024

A free, virtual conference with sessions on:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Math & Special Education
- Spelling & Dyslexia
- Behavior & Data Collection
- Due Process
- Support Coordinators & Waivers
- Truancy - Motivation & Discipline
- Graduation Pathways

Keynote Speaker topics:

- Mental Health
- Relationship Building

Registration begins August 1

For additional information, contact: donne@rmu.edu or hiltzd@rmu.edu

Upcoming Events Around the Area

May 10th and June 7th from 6:30PM-8:30PM - Siblings Social Club at the Autism Caring Center. The Siblings Social Club is designed to provide social support to siblings of special needs children. This will be a social hour for ages 10+ of board games, snacks, and activities.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B48A8A62FABFF2-47930271-siblings>

May 26 - Memorial Day Picnic – Settlers Cabin Park

A picnic designed for special needs families to celebrate a holiday together hosted by Autism Caring Center.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B48A8A62FABFF2-48144415-memorial>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrate-autism-acceptance-month-with-dr-crystal-morris-on-tickets-858948657557?aff=oddtcreator>

June 3rd 1:00pm-3:00pm - The Camera's Eye: Telling the Story of Disability through the Power of Film - Free Webinar

Before his son Samuel Habib was diagnosed with a disability at age 1, Dan Habib rarely thought about the inclusion of people with disabilities. Since then, he and his family have advocated for Samuel's inclusion nearly every day – in their schools, city, college, and even in their extended family. Samuel (24), who was featured in his father Dan's seminal 2008 film "Including Samuel," is now leading the advocacy charge for his own life. Samuel and Dan will share several films – including their Emmy Award Winning film, My Disability Roadmap – and discuss their strategies for creating a culture of inclusion in the family, school district, and community, and plan for a full adult life. Their films vividly document inclusive practices such as universal design for learning, assistive technology, positive behavioral supports, family engagement, youth leadership, and cultural responsiveness.

Captioned and ASL interpretation will be provided for this webinar. Please email info@wpdhac.org if you require any additional accommodations.

<https://www.wpdhac.org/the-cameras-eye-telling-the-story-of-disability-through-the-power-of-film-webinar/>

June 7-9, 2024 - PA Tourette Syndrome Alliance's annual TS Family Camp

To register or for more information go to <https://patsainc.org/events/ts-family-camp>

June 8th – 6:00pm - 8:00pm - End of School Year Dance – Spectrum Club Autism Caring Center

For ages 13+. A dance for teens on the spectrum. Pizza, photo opportunities, music, and dancing. The event will be held at 1000 Horizon Vue Drive in Canonsburg.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B48A8A62FABFF2-49393530-endofyear>

June 16th – 22nd - CAMP FROG

Registration is now open for Camp Frog, a specially designed overnight summer camp experience for children and teens with epilepsy. This year, all camp activities will take place during **June 16-22, 2024** at Camp Fitch in North Springfield, PA (near Erie).

Campers ages 8-18 are encouraged to register. For more information or to pre-register, please contact: Brooke at bmohr@eawcp.org for more information.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/wyzoCDU/CampFrogPreReg2024>

June 25th – 27th - INCLUDI-CON

This year's Includi-Con is designed to provide opportunities for you to Energize Engagement for Everyone! Life in schools and their respective communities has been difficult and more challenging than ever, as the impact of the pandemic for students,

families and schools was fully understood and felt. Registration is closing 5/24/2024! Scholarships are available for families. Email achan@includemepa.org for more information. <https://thearcpa.org/includi-con2024registration/>

July 29th - August 9th - EVOLVE Future Camp

Annual two-week summer arts camp hosts neurodiverse and neurotypical learners ages 12 and up for a series of classes including writing, visual arts, animation, music, and more. In addition to classes led by teaching artists, Future Camp wraps with a celebration called “Future Fest” which features local arts programming vendors, college resource booths, and more.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6gnk7aKVdWVU9FPr22p26V5t2j1tTT_fsneK793LHL07uaQ/viewform

August 4th - All Abilities Day at PNC Park

A portion of each ticket sold will benefit a local non-profit that uplifts and celebrates each person’s uniqueness and gives them a chance to have their voice amplified. Come together as a community to help show that everyone can be a fan of baseball.

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/allabilities>

Highlights from Family Support Meeting Graduation Pathways



On Monday, May 6, Dr. Melissa Holler, Director of Pupil Services from Allegheny Valley School District, and High School Counselor, Mrs. Becky Dyer, spoke to our parents and families about the various pathways to high school graduation. They shared their expertise and provided a wealth of information. They answered questions and made attendees aware of all the options available when it comes to high school diplomas, post-secondary education, and employment.

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 the information provided by our presenters (and a few additional ones) about graduation.



Graduation Requirements Guidance from SAS

<https://pdesas.org/Page/Viewer/ViewPage/73>

Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA) [Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment \(PASA\)](#)

PASA Eligibility Requirements [PASA Eligibility Criteria: Decision Making Companion Tool](#)

Resources for Families of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities
[Resources for Families of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities \(pa.gov\)](#)

Statewide High School Graduation Requirements

<https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/GraduationRequirements/Pages/default.aspx>

Statewide Graduation Requirements Fact Sheet from Education Law Center

<https://www.elc-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Statewide-Graduation-Requirements-Fact-sheet.pdf>

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[RMU Trees Website](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/RMUtrees/>

