



RMU Trees Network March 2023 Newsletter



April 3rd Summer Camp Parent Meeting

Join us on Monday, April 3rd for our next parent meeting focusing on Summer Camps. We have reached out to camps around the state to present what students with disabilities will learn,

benefit, and take away from camp. We have representatives from Camp Speers, Summit Camp, Camp Pennwood, Camp AIM, Camp Laugh-A Lot, Camp PARC, and Camp Lee Mar presenting and available for questions. This presentation will meet LIVE virtually from 7PM-8PM. 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](#)

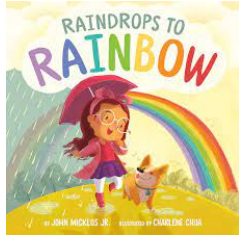
Individual IEP Meetings or Conferences

Our goal at the Trees Network is to help, aid, and provide resources to parents and educators. To further assist parents with Individual Education Plans (IEPs), we have set aside 9AM-3PM on Mondays in March to meet with individual parents who have questions. Any question is welcome and encouraged! If you want to know more about what should be included specific to your child, how to read assessment data, goals, accommodations and modifications, etc., we are here to help. Please email Vicki Donne at donne@rmu.edu for an afternoon time or Deanna Hiltz at hiltzd@rmu.edu for a morning meeting.

Scholarship Opportunity

The RMU Trees Network has a \$5,000/year scholarship to full-time freshman students pursuing special education teacher certification. Scholars awarded will dedicate 10 hours a week to the Network, which serves families of students with intellectual disabilities by sharing community resources, newsletters, workshops, and direct services. Follow the link to access the application and its details. [RMU Trees Network Scholarship Application](#)





Family Engagement Activities

Our RMU Trees Network Scholars used the University's Makerspace to create a fun craft for our readers. Follow them on our YouTube channel as they give step-by-step instructions on how to create an Easter craft using paper, scissors, and paint!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu6lcY8WmO4>

Also, if you're looking for a good spring story, have your child click the link to listen and watch the story Raindrops to Rainbow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-6xjycDCiU>

March's ESY Parent Meeting

On Monday, March 6, we held our monthly, virtual parent meeting. Dr. Melissa Holler, Allegheny Valley School District's Special Education Director, talked about Extended School Year (ESY) services that are provided to students with a disability beyond the regular school year. She provided us and our parents with information on the goals, outcomes, and district requirements for ESY. Thank you so much, Dr. Holler!



Resources for Parents and Educators

The Network provides resources for parents and teachers and these resources can be found at the [RMU Trees Network WIX site](#). 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 try to 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. Below are some resources framed around questions and input from our ESY meeting.



ESY Eligibility from PaTTAN [Extended School Year](#)

PA Department of Education ESY Eligibility [PA Dept of Ed](#)

ESY Services in Pennsylvania from PaTTAN [ESY Guide](#)

Standards for Extended School Year from Wright's Law https://www.wrightslaw.com/info/esy_standards_barlev.htm

Open Up - teaches mindfulness through movement and art <https://www.open-up.org/>

Total Learning Center - offer one-on-one educational programs for clients ages five through adult <https://www.totallearningcenter.com/about>

C.A.R.E.S. - family-owned organization providing person-centered services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism.

<https://cares4u.org/>

Hope Grows - invite caregivers to experience a one of a kind approach to wellness

<https://hopegrows.org/>

RMU Trees Network Contact

6001 University Boulevard

Nicholson 4th floor

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

[RMU Trees Wix Site](#)

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

