



RMU Trees Network April 2024 Newsletter



GRADUATION - NOW WHAT!?! Parent Meeting - MAY 6th

Graduating from high school is an important milestone. As children with disabilities enter middle and high school, families question the impact of IEP decisions on high school diplomas, post-secondary education, and employment. Some families question whether their child taking the PASA will affect their diploma. In 2003, PA added pathways to demonstrate preparedness for graduation and parents often have questions on

which pathway is most appropriate for their child. Families also have questions on the recent policy revision to age of IEP services (22 years of age). Join us for our virtual family/parent support group meeting on Monday, May 6th as Dr. Melissa Holler, Supervisor of Pupil Services at Allegheny Valley School District, discusses some of these important high school completion considerations. We will meet from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm and there will be time for questions from families. If you are interested in attending, please register here or contact Deanna Hiltz at hiltzd@rmu.edu or Vicki Donne at donne@rmu.edu. We hope to see you there! [Registration Form](#)

Upcoming Events Around the Area

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/>

Celebrate **Autism Acceptance Month** at Riverstone Books in Squirrel Hill on **Sunday, April 14 at 1PM** with Dr. Crystal Morrison, co-author of Superheroes on the Spectrum. There will also be a drawing for prizes from businesses supporting neurodiversity. Learn more and register here:

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

April 18 and 19 - 2024 Disability and Mental Health Summit at Beth El Congregation of the South Hills in Pittsburgh. Information, latest schedule and registration are available at DisabilitySummit.com

April 23 10AM - 12PM - Understanding the Basics of SSI and SSDI. This is a webinar presented by Pennsylvania Health Law Project (PHLP), Janice Meinert and hosted by Achieva Family Trust and The Pennsylvania Health Law Project. Introductory information to help people with disabilities better understand Medicaid and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver programs in Pennsylvania will be covered. For information: <https://www.achieva.info/events/understanding-medicaid-home-and-community-based-waivers-for-people-with-disabilities>

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

Summer Camps and Programs Meeting Highlights



On Monday, April 8th our parent meeting focused on Summer Camps and Programs around the area that students with disabilities can attend and have a great experience. We had representatives from Envision Blind Sports, Hilltop Horizons (Aliquippa), Firefly Camps and Retreats (Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania), Open Up

(Lawrenceville), and The Woodlands (Wexford). All their websites to their summer fliers and brochures are provided under Resources for Parents and Educators as well as posted on our website [RMU Trees Network Website](https://www.rmu.edu/academics/provost/trees).

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](https://www.rmu.edu/academics/provost/trees). 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) for summer program and camp opportunities.



Camp Laugh-A-Lot (Washington, PA) <https://archumanservices.org/camp-laughalot/>

Envision Blind Sports (Erie, PA)

<https://www.envisionblindsports.org/events/2024/7/14/2024-envision-blind-sports-camp>

FireFly Camps and Retreats (Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania)
<https://sbawp.org/firefly-camps-retreats/>

Hilltop Horizons (Aliquippa, PA) <https://hilltophorizons.org/overview>

Longhorn Summer Camp (Mars, PA)
<https://mhyfamilyservices.org/longmore-academy/>

Open Up (Lawrenceville, PA) <https://www.open-up.org/>

The Woodlands (Wexford, PA) <https://mywoodlands.org/programs/summer-camps/>

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