

The Woodland WORD

THE NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT WOODLAND DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

2022-2023 School Year • Summer Issue 1
July, 2022

From Principal Natalie Adair

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year!

Congratulations to the Program Completion Class of 2022!



Woodland School Office Hours and Contact Information

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30pm Monday - Thursday

8:00 am - 3:30 pm - Friday

Woodland Main Office Phone Number: (810) 455-1011

North Secretary: Michelle Beeler

Secretary to the Principal: Kelley Yeager

Principal: Natalie Adair

Assistant Principal: Brian Jex

Dean Transportation Phone Number: (810) 364-7757



Woodland Developmental Center is operated by the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency

A Word From the Principal

I would like to welcome everyone back to school, and extend a special welcome to all of our new students and their families. The staff and I are looking forward to another exciting year of learning at Woodland. You can expect periodic newsletters from myself, and several of the classroom teachers to keep you up to date as to what is happening at Woodland and in the classrooms. We are excited to begin the 2022-2023 school year. We will strive to provide the best education possible for your child. If at any time during the school year you feel the need to contact me, please feel free to call (810) 455-1011.

Looking forward to a great year!

Natalie Adair - Principal

Staffing Changes at Woodland for the 2022-2023 Year

Each new school year brings positive change. This includes a few new additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome new staff to Woodland. This year we welcome Robert (Bob) Kearns as the teacher in Room 113, starting July 11, 2022. Additionally we welcome Kelsey Milton as the teacher in Room 119, starting August 22, 2022. Lastly, we welcome Alexis Parker as a teacher aide in Room 203.

Along with adding new staff, we have many familiar faces in new positions:

- Amy Sunday - Teacher in Room 105
- Megan Tomasek - Teacher Consultant for Woodland Developmental Center and Master Teacher for 2022 - 2023
- Amy Burkhardt - Teacher Aide in Room 101
- Mary Campo - Teacher Aide in Room 208
- Carlie Carter - Teacher Aide in Room 121
- Lisa Chivers - Teacher Aide in Room 119
- Ashley Dean - Teacher Aide Gym/Swim
- Keli Keeler - Teacher Aide in Room 105
- Connie Lichty - Teacher Aide in Room 105
- Maggie Mathers - Teacher Aide in Room 121

We are still in the hiring process to fill the remaining vacant positions.

July Happenings at Woodland School

Monday, July 11 - Friday, July 22, 2022 - School is in Session

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 - Woodland to Handicapable St. Clair County 4-H and Youth Fair

Monday, July 25, - Friday, August 5, 2022 - No School

Monday, August 8, 2022 - School Resumes



Transportation Updates:

Transportation bus routes have been updated and rerouted for the 2022 - 2023 school year. These revisions occur annually due to changes in student enrollment and population. Bus routes are created for students to be transported from home (daycare/group home) to school and school to home (daycare/group home) based on the closest, safest, shortest run possible for each student. If you have any questions regarding your approximate pick-up or drop-off time please contact transportation at (810) 364-7757.

COVID-19 Updates:

For the 2022-2023 school year, our students and staff safety and well-being continue to be a primary concern. At this time beginning, July 1, 2022, it is our intent for Woodland to return to “normal” operating procedures and continue to bring back several of the opportunities we had in place prior to taking a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Woodland Breakfast and Lunch 2022 - 2023

We will continue to update you as we have more information available regarding breakfast and lunch services for the 2022-2023 school year. At this time, be assured your student will receive breakfast and lunch until further information is available.

Annual Packet Information and Forms 2022 - 2023 School Year

On the first day of school all student forms, free and reduced lunch forms, emergency cards and annual information will be sent home for your child. As a reminder, please complete these forms and return them to your child’s teacher promptly. On the student emergency card, critical information is provided; consequently, it is important that information is complete, up to date, and **only individuals identified on the emergency card will be allowed to pick up your child from school.** Please call the office should you have any questions regarding any of the forms (810) 455 - 1011.

LINKS Return to Woodland for Summer 2022

The start of the 2022-2023 school year brings back our LINK program and LINK students which have been gone during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you hear your student talking about a new friend in their classroom, it may be the LINK that will be in their classroom for the month of July and August. LINKS will participate with students and are here to enhance peer interactions and socialization opportunities. Welcome back LINKS we are excited to have you with us for the summer!

Contacting Woodland and Reporting an Absence

If you have general questions please call the school office directly at (810) 455-1011. For questions regarding bus transportation or **to report an absence concerning transportation, call the transportation department** at (810) 364-7757. If your child is not transported to school via bus transportation please report the student absence to their classroom teacher by calling the school office (810) 455- 1011.

St. Clair County RESA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) 2021 Notification

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires each year, district workers and building occupants receive notification about asbestos activities such as response actions and inspections. The purpose of this correspondence is to meet those requirements and familiarize you with the asbestos-related activities that have been conducted in St. Clair County RESA during the past year.

MANAGEMENT PLANS

In 1988, St. Clair County RESA contracted an environmental consulting firm to conduct inspections and develop asbestos Management Plans for asbestos-containing material (ACM) within all district-owned buildings. These Management Plans are located in the administrative office of each building and are available to the public for review. A copy of each building management plan is also located at the Maintenance Building.

SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES

The AHERA regulation requires periodic surveillance of the condition of ACM every six months. The regulation also requires Reinspections conducted every three years by Michigan Accredited Inspectors. St. Clair County RESA has contracted with an independent consulting firm, Nova Environmental, Inc. to conduct the Reinspections. The last Reinspection was on March 22, 2022. Previous Reinspections and six-month periodic inspections can be located in the buildings' Management Plans.

ASBESTOS ABATEMENT

The last Asbestos Abatement at St. Clair County RESA was done in the TEC building by a certified Abatement Contractor on July 19-23, 2021. Questions regarding asbestos removal projects or any asbestos-related issues can be addressed by Mr. Russ Witherspoon, Supervisor of Maintenance, at (810) 455-4151.

Pesticide Control Act of Notification of Pesticide Application

Public Act 131 of 1993, amends the Pesticide Control Act to require school administrators to notify parents and guardians of their right to be informed prior to the application of pesticides at the school.

This is to notify you, the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency, (RESA), contracts with an exterminator for a monthly service, which is provided on the second Thursday of every month. If necessary, the State Licensed Pesticide Applicator will use gel baits (and occasionally liquid spray) on the interior perimeter of the building. Liquid pesticide spray is not used in or around any building while occupied by students.

A record of dates of all pesticide applications is available at the Buildings and Grounds office.

If you would like prior notification, please request a Prior Notification Form from:

Russ Witherspoon, Supervisor of Maintenance
P.O. Box 1500, Marysville, MI 48040-1500
(810) 455-4151

Safety Drills Required at School

Woodland, like all other public schools, is required to conduct 10 safety drills each year. Public schools are required to conduct five fire safety drills spread throughout the school year, two tornado safety drills, and three lockdown drills. One of the tornado safety drills must take place in March. The drills can't take place on the same day as a state-mandated test. At least one of the drills is required during a lunch or recess period, or at another time when a significant number of the students are gathered outside the classroom. Contact Assistant Principal Brian Jex at (810) 455-1011 or jex.brian@sccresa.org with questions.

Parent Mentors Available

If you are a new Woodland parent or a parent just wanting more information or guidance, we would be happy to connect you with a "parent mentor" who can help answer your questions and share their experiences and knowledge with you. Please call the office at (810) 455-1011 for further information.

Look for Woodland News on our Facebook Page



Woodland is on social media! If you haven't already, please search for "Woodland Developmental Center" on Facebook and "like" our page. We post pictures, reminders, notifications, and share other important information on this page. We would love it if you would "like" and "share" our posts so more people in our community can see how truly amazing our students and staff are. Many Woodland items are also posted on the "St. Clair County RESA" Facebook page, so please look for that, too!

<https://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2012/06/20/82-summer-activities-for-families-with-special-needs/>

82 Summer Activities for Families with Special Needs

Between June and September my kids have 82 days of summer vacation, and I've promised them something fun every single day. That means I need 82 fun summer activities for one child with a developmental disability and one child who refuses to participate in most activities. It'll be a piece of cake, right?

Borrowing the weekday "Summer Schedule For Kids" at somewhatsimple.com, scouring the internet for more ideas and adding some of my own activities, here are 82 days of summer fun and learning:

Safety Sunday

1. Teach your child his or her full name.
2. Teach your child your full name.
3. Have your child memorize your home address – show where the house number is located outside and show where the street name is.
4. Have your child memorize your phone number. Practice reciting key information.
5. Learn how to cross the street safely.
6. Practice an escape route in case of fire.
7. Practice saying "no:" make it a game in which you take turns asking each other to do increasingly absurd things.
8. Play hide-and-go-seek to teach your child how to remain calm while looking for you.
9. Teach your child the buddy system.
10. Teach your child what an emergency is and how to call 911.
11. Practice asking for help with things that are hot, sharp, dangerous or too high to reach.
12. Start swimming lessons.

Make Something Monday

13. Arrange 5 or 6 photos to make a poster or scrapbook page.
14. Sweetened condensed milk makes a beautiful, edible fingerpaint.
15. Plant a seedling outdoors.
16. Dig for worms – it's a great exercise for fine motor skills and tactile defensiveness. Re-home the worms next to that seedling you planted.
17. Bubble snakes.
18. Make a leaf scrapbook.
19. Color the sidewalk with chalk. Wash it all away with water.
20. Paint using different types of paintbrushes: a fly swatter, a flower, a cotton swab, a sponge, a leaf, etc.
21. Build an obstacle course with hula hoops, lawn furniture and empty boxes.
22. Tie-dye some t-shirts.
23. Make a magic wand using all available materials.
24. Build a "fairy house" outdoors with sticks, pebbles, pine cones, bark, leaves and other natural materials found outdoors.

Time to Read Tuesday

25. Sign up for your local library's summer reading program.
26. Read a book under a tree.
27. Read all but the last page of a storybook and ask your children to suggest an ending.
28. Have your child dictate and illustrate a story, and read it together. It's OK if the story is 1 or 2 sentences long.
29. Make a home video of your child reading a story aloud, or of you reading aloud to your child.
30. After you finish reading a book such as *The Lorax*, go see the movie.
31. Read some books on a specific topic, such as insects, then do a related activity such as a bug hunt or catching fireflies.
32. Have your child create a summer schedule for the family and read off the schedule every morning.

33. Check out a book of simple science experiments and try some of them at home.
34. Check out a book about a historical figure and play dress-up at home.
35. Have your child write out a checklist for a scavenger hunt, and find everything on the list together.
36. Swap favorite books with your friends.

What's Cooking? Wednesday

37. Fruit smoothies in the blender.
38. No-bake oatmeal cookies on the stove.
39. Pizza.
40. Spinach-artichoke dip in the blender.
41. Banana muffins.
42. Roll-up sandwiches.
43. Fruit kebabs.
44. Chicken soup in the crock-pot (plug it in on the porch so that it doesn't heat up the house).
45. Roasted marshmallows.
46. Scrambled eggs and pancakes for dinner.
47. Lemonade from scratch.
48. Guacamole.

Thoughtful Thursday

49. Wash the car together. No driveway and no car? Then wash the toy cars.
50. Call someone just to say hello.
51. Pick some flowers (dandelions and clovers are OK) and give the bouquet to someone who isn't expecting them.
52. Write a top ten list of a person's best attributes and give the list as a gift to that person.
53. Write a thank-you letter to someone and mail it.
54. Donate clothing, books and toys to charity.

55. Teach your child to do one chore.
56. Give someone a homemade art project.
57. Volunteer at a food bank.
58. Collect bottles and cans, and donate the money to charity.
59. Pray for someone who needs a prayer.
60. Hug someone who needs a hug.

Somewhere Fun Friday

61. Petting farm or petting zoo.
62. A playground in a different neighborhood.
63. An art museum – check first to see when general admission is free!
64. The beach.
65. Pick fresh fruit at a local farm or visit the farmer's market.
66. Ride a train.
67. Find a carnival or a street fair.
68. Ice cream shop.
69. Waterpark or sprayground.
70. Visit a friend.
71. Nature trail or botanical garden.
72. A skyscraper or another high place with a grand view of the world.

Social Skills Saturday

73. Tell a story from your own childhood. Have your child tell a related story from his or her life experience – yes, even if your child is nonverbal.
74. Lie in the grass and take turns looking for shapes or pictures in the clouds.
75. Go around and ask every family member at home the same silly question, and share the answers.
76. Look at some old family photos and name all the people in them.

77. Practice making emotional facial expressions on cue with your child: neutral, happy, sad, fearful, angry, disgusted, surprised. Take turns and make it fun.
78. Practice listening skills by responding only with nonverbal communication for 1 to 5 minutes – then switch roles.
79. Be someone's mirror: imitate a person's actions as if you are that person's reflection in a mirror for 1 minute. Then switch roles.
80. Play Follow the Leader. Match the leader's pace for as long as possible, then let a new leader take over.
81. Play the statue game: one person freezes like a statue and the other person has to make the statue laugh. Take turns.
82. Develop family traditions: sing a song together, recite a poem, say a prayer that has special meaning to your family.

Have summer activities to share? Tell us in the comments section below.

Looking for more summer ideas? Check out **How to get through 82 Days of Summer Vacation**

<https://national.macaronikid.com/articles/5d1256ab7e48e4211ef4b4ce/22-summer-activities-for-families-with-special-needs>

22 Summer Activities For Families With Special Needs

By Carissa Garabedian, publisher of Macaroni Kid Richmond, Va. June 25, 2019

Many parents of special needs kids -- and all kids really! -- struggle to find ways to spend summer days that are both educational and fun.

So we've rounded up 22 ideas that offer fun and simple ways to engage special needs kids this summer ... all while having fun! Many of these ideas are great to work on with kids of all ability levels, even those without special needs. There are plenty on this list that I'm planning on working on this summer with my special needs son!

1. Teach your child their address

On family walks, work on teaching your child their home address and something to identify about your home and street.

2. Practice crossing the street

Walks are also a great time to work on important basics like safely crossing the street.

3. Play hide and seek!

This can help teach your child that even though you are out of sight, they are still safe.

4. Cook together

Follow a recipe and cook together. Make sure to use a recipe that your child enjoys so they will eat the end product!

5. Plant a garden

Is a garden too much? No problem. Even planting a single plant can give your child a sense of responsibility, if they're in charge of watering and caring for it.

6. Make a lemonade stand

Your child can help make the sign and lemonade and sit with you to sell your lemonade! It's a great way to encourage interaction, even if your child only lasts 30 minutes out there!

7. Wash your car

On a sunny, hot day, wash your car together!

8. Make a photo album

Include pictures of your family and friends. Share stories while you put it together.

9. Play hopscotch

A simple driveway hopscotch board created with chalk can provide a lot of entertainment and help your child work on fine motor skills.

10. Make tie-dye shirts

The whole family can make shirts, and then you can all wear them out together on another adventure.

11. Build an indoor fort

A perfect rainy day activity.

12. Visit the library

Check out books and practice being quiet.

13. Experiment!

Conduct some simple science experiments at home.

14. Learn a new chore

Teach your kids how to do a new chore. Depending on your child's ability level, ideas include sorting colors in the laundry, sorting recycling, or putting away silverware.

15. Grocery shop

Go to the supermarket and let your child pay for an item or count the change.

16. Visit a park

Go to a park and use the chance to take turns and see others play.

17. Share stories

Talk to your children about stories from your own childhood, and theirs. How do their memories differ from yours?

18. Lay in the grass

Look up at the clouds. What shapes do you see?

19. Practice facial expressions

Practice making different facial expressions with your child: happy, sad, afraid, angry, surprised. Take turns.

20. Make a home video

Simple and sweet is fine, no need for edits. Save it and send it to a relative.

21. Play follow the leader

Imitation is another great skill for our special needs kids.

22. Go on a picnic!

Everyone loves a picnic! Don't want to travel? A backyard picnic can be just as special -- and a lot easier on everyone!

Hope these give you plenty of ideas on simple ways to make lasting memories for your special needs kids this summer!

Carissa Garabedian is the publisher of KnowDifferent.net and mother to a special needs child in Richmond, Va. Carissa also publishes Macaroni Kid Richmond, Va.

