Dear Allen Park Parents/Guardians:

The Adapted Physical Education (APE) program in Allen Park Public Schools has a goal of teaching your son or daughter how to swim safely in the water. The growth and development that aquatics can have on our children with disabilities is immense. The last couple years we haven't had the ability to do aquatics with any regularity district-wide. Mr. Deak Swearingen, our new Adapted PE teacher, has developed a plan to give your child an opportunity to swim a couple times before the end of this school year.

Mr. Swearingen has taught many college level swim classes, including an adapted aquatics class for Wayne State University. In addition, he was the former Adapted Physical Education coordinator for Ann Arbor Public Schools and incorporated swimming into his classes for 12 years.

We are able to provide this opportunity with our classroom paraprofessionals and occupational therapist supervising students and two certified lifeguards (including Mr. Swearingen) working with the students in the water.

The objective for your child's group is to establish what their present level of performance is in the water, and give each individual more comfort and build confidence in a lifetime skill! The students will be in the water for no more than 30 minutes, at which time they will exit the pool one at a time working on transitions! Changing will occur in the appropriate locker rooms with adult supervision as needed. The plan is to make swimming a part of the students' routine.

On the next page, please see the specific plan, schedule and location for your child's swimming. Included is a space for your consent to allow your son/daughter permission to swim as part of the adapted physical education.

If you have any questions or would like more details please do not hesitate to email Deak Swearingen swearingen@appublicschools.com or Dr. Pat Mies at mies@appublicschools.com.

Bennie Cross Cat Program:

Location: 18401 Champaign Rd. Allen Park, MI 48101

Transportation: walking across the street **(Please make sure you have completed the walking permission form with the school.)**

Cost: Free

When: 2026

Friday 10/16/2026 from 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

Friday 10/23/2026 from 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

Friday 11/20/2026 from 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

Friday 12/11/2026 from 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

2027

Friday 1/8/2027 from 1:30-2:45 pm

Friday 1/22/2027 from 1:30-2:45 pm

Friday 2/19/2027 from 1:30-2:45 pm

Friday 3/5/2027 from 1:30-2:45 pm

Friday 4/16/2027 from 1:30-2:45 pm

Friday 5/14/2027 from 1:30-2:45 pm

Friday 6/4/2027 from 1:30-2:45 pm

Life Vests: Each student will be provided a life vest by APPS and wear a life vest at all times until deemed unnecessary. A student may bring their own life vest, but it must be Coast Guard approved.

Dress/swimsuits: Students are encouraged to wear their bathing suits under their clothes on the above designated days. This will assist in transitioning quickly to the pool upon arrival. Please provide a plastic bag for placement of wet bathing suits. The students will be assisted with dressing by our staff once swimming is complete.

Staff Present: For our initial date on 9/25/2026, (classroom teacher), Dr. Pat Mies (Special Education Director), Mr. Deak Swearingen (Adapted PE teacher/ Lifeguard), and Mrs. Caryl Dazer retired APE teacher and Lifeguard, and both classroom paraprofessionals.

If you consent to allowing your child to participate in this opportunity please sign below. Thank you!

I **(Parent signature)**_____, give my son/daughter_____ permission to swim in adapted physical education.