

# SSD/Maplewood- Richmond Heights

## JUNE/JULY 2024

Dear MRH Families,

As we welcome the sunny days of summer, we want to extend our warmest wishes to each and every one of you. This season is a wonderful opportunity to relax, explore, and create unforgettable memories with your loved ones. Whether you're planning exciting adventures, enjoying quiet moments at home, or anything in between, we hope your summer is filled with joy, laughter, and relaxation.



Take this time to recharge, cherish every moment, and most importantly, stay safe. We look forward to hearing about your summer experiences and seeing you refreshed and ready for the new school year in August.

Wishing you a spectacular summer!

In Partnership,

*Emily*

Emily Kresyman Ed. S

Maplewood Richmond Heights Director of Special Education

*created with the support of AI technology*

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## This month in MRH

JUNE 4th- First day of ESY and Summer Journey

JUNE 19th- District Closed



SAVE THE DATE— August 17th- MRH Back to School Fair!

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## Summer Learning Opportunities

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### Summer Reading Options

#### Book Recommendations for Reluctant Readers

Learning never has to stop! Students should be encouraged to continue reading over the summer months.

##### 1. “Read What You Want”

Make sure that students know they can read whatever they want. No matter how challenging or silly the book may seem. The goal is to encourage a lifelong love of reading! Teachers pick a curated list of books for students to read during the school year. These books cover all of the basis in terms of curriculum standards, but they might not align with your student's interest. In other words, these are books students “have” to read. During the summer months, they should be encouraged to read books that they “want to read”.

##### 2. Be the Bridge

Students who struggle with reading might be interested in a particular series or book, but dismiss it because it may be too challenging. Provide your students with books on tape or read out loud to them. This is a great way to encourage them to continue reading and spend additional time with them over the summer. Another option is to take turns reading paragraphs or pages with your student. This can be a really low-pressure way for students to practice decoding and fluency over the summer. If you choose to take reading turns with your student, please do not encourage them to guess words. Read any word they cannot: decode for them.

##### 3. Parent Curated List

Although it is important for students to read what they want to read over the summer, going into a library, comic book store, or bookstore can be overwhelming. Help your student out by providing them with a list of books or series that align with their interests or personalities. An amazing resource is the [New York Times best-seller list](#). The list is updated often and allows readers to narrow down search options based on genre, age group, and month. In addition, please see below for a list of picture books and middle-aged books curated by Nathan Turner.



## Summer Programming / Overview

If you are the parent of a child who will be entering Kindergarten in fall 2024, I strongly encourage you to consider enrolling your child in Summer Journey. We have noticed that when these young students meet their teachers, fellow students, and our staff during the summer, they are eager to return in the fall and find that "first day of school" experience to be a positive one.

🔗 [mrhschools.net](http://mrhschools.net)

## STL County Library

Did you know that the St. Louis County Library offers more than just books? They offer a whole host of events at each of their locations throughout the County. Visit their [events webpage](#) today and discover what interests you!



## Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis

- Discover the what, why and how behind the incredible work we get to do every day for individuals with disabilities. Download our latest newsletters and area guides to learn more about the Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis and ways you can get involved with programs or events.

- **IT'S ARRIVED.** [2024 Summer Guide](#) can now be viewed and printed. Plus, check out these resources:
- [Tips on Finding a Leisure Program Right for You](#)
- [Online Summer Program Listing](#)
- [Program Search Tool](#)



## Miriam Summer Camp Taking Registrations

**[Registration is open for the 2024 Miriam School and Learning Center's academic and therapeutic summer camps!](#)** Individualized instruction, research-based interventions, and certified/licensed professionals will ensure your child builds confidence and skills in reading, writing, speech, or social/emotional development

## Learn More about SEF's Kid-to-Camp Program

SEF's [Kid-to-Camp](#) program provides financial assistance to families of children served by Special School District so they can attend camps. Funds are awarded based on financial need and student benefit. Learn more about SEF's camp options, including day and overnight camps for winter, spring, and summer breaks. Applications are accepted year-round. Apply early - some camps have limited open spots.



## STL County Parks

Did you know that St. Louis County Parks and Recreation offers over 400 programs and events each year? From hiking and biking trails to ice rinks, pools and camps, they have something for everyone. Head over to their [website](#) and see what they have to offer your family.



Dream Big aims to show students with disabilities that they can do many things that their non-disabled peers can do, and they should not limit their career goals. By participating in Dream Big, students will gain the confidence to explore different career paths and the understanding of the steps necessary to successfully live independently as a person with a disability. By participating in Dream Big, students can expect to:

- **Interact with current employees in high demand careers**
- **Visit leading companies to discover the vast array of careers available for them to pursue**
- **Engage in a robust curriculum on adulting with a disability, discussing disability history and pride, self advocacy, independent living and life after high school**
- **Fellowship and interact with like-minded peers**

Scan here to learn more and sign up:



### Eligibility Requirements:

- Students need to be in middle or high school
- Have a disability
- Be willing to be engaged and participate

"This program and its parent organization are not sponsored by, affiliated with, nor endorsed by the Special School District of St. Louis County, its individual schools, or its partner districts."

## Health and Wellness

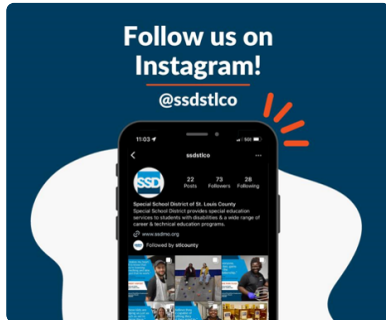
The National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI) offers meaningful resources to support youth, educators, families, and caregivers have productive discussions about mental health with youth and young adults.



Please visit the website to review the resources. <https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults/Youth-and-Young-Adult-Resources>

Summer break is just around the corner. Thankfully St. Louis offers many opportunities for families to get out and about together. [Explore St. Louis](#) has a robust directory of local museums

## SSD FACE Department



### Follow SSD on Instagram!

SSD launched a new Instagram account in October and would love for you to follow. The District will be sharing photos and updates from all across the District, including our students and staff in partner districts. Follow us to stay connected and see what we are up to: [www.instagram.com/ssdstlco/](https://www.instagram.com/ssdstlco/)

### PAC Documents: Please see below for updated meeting information.

- [SSD PAC Agenda for 2/14/24](#)
- [February 2024 PAC Meeting Presentation](#)
- [Meeting Recording for 2/14/24](#)
- [January 2024 Meeting Minutes](#)
- [January 2024 PAC Meeting Presentation](#)



### MRH Parent Advisory Council

The MRH Parent Advisory Council offers an opportunity to connect with other parents of students with disabilities and to learn about topics of interest. Please contact MRH parent [Mrs. Kim Gifford](#) if you are interested in participating.

## Let's Talk!

Let's Talk is an open invitation from Special School District (SSD) to tell us what's on your mind. Let's Talk is an easy way to submit feedback at your convenience directly to the SSD staff member who can help.

### Additional Resources

- [SSD Partner District - Maplewood-Richmond Heights](#)
- [Academic and Related Services Toolkit](#)

**Click Here to read "Honoring Our History, Shaping Our Future" MRH Strategic Plan**



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