

IMPORTANT DATES

- **March 28-April 1:** Spring break!
- **April 4:** Autism Acceptance day at Heidt
- **April 14, 9 a.m.:** PTO meeting
- **April 18:** Records day, no students
- **April 21, 1 p.m.:** Early Release
- **April 30:** Puzzle Day Event!
- **May 7, 6 p.m.:** Prom at Heidt!
- **May 17:** Family Meeting
- **May 19, 1 p.m.:** Early Release
- **May 23:** Graduation
- **May 24:** Transition Commencement Ceremony
- **May 26:** End of Quarter / Last day of school



HEIDT Happenings



April 2022

Happy Occupational Therapy Month

What is OT? Occupational therapy (OT) is a branch of health care that helps people of all ages who have physical, sensory, or cognitive problems. OT can help them regain independence in all areas of their lives. Occupational therapists help with barriers that affect a person's emotional, social, and physical needs.

Where Do OTs Work? Occupational therapists work in many different settings, including hospitals, schools, rehabilitation centers, mental health facilities, private practices, and children's clinics.

What do they work on? Activities of daily living (ADLs), instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), sleep and rest, leisure skills, sensory processing, regulation, fine motor, gross motor, work and employability skills

Do we have OT at Heidt? Yes! If your child qualifies for services on their IEP they are seen by one of our three contract OTs.

SafeinHome

Many of our students are continuing to enjoy working in our state-of-the-art mock apartment as part of their curriculum. Students are able to learn and practice functional life skills in this area. Our students have the opportunity to practice utilizing remote supports. Check out SafeinHome for more information about remote supports to see if these remote supports may be helpful at home as well. <https://www.safeinhome.com/>

Got-Special Kids

Make sure to check out the website for GSK if you are searching for any fidgets, educational tools, or other items. Our students in our transition program work in GSK completing all tasks from printing off the online orders, pulling the items, and shipping them out. Our student interns have shipped items to over 66 countries!

Puzzle Day / Prom Donations

We are looking for students/families/staff to donate snacks (packaged food and drinks) for both Puzzle Day on April 30 and prom on May 7. We currently have enough volunteers signed up for prom. Please see the link below regarding sign up info and the deadline to submit donations.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hA9DZ2UzMitp2bX8ZIL_6tEbD8FmoqSes9Kp_r42LSfQ/edit?ts=62264bdf#responses

If you have any questions, please email Courtney Reece, Associate Principal, at creece@heidtcenter.org

The Puzzle Piece

The school newspaper "The Puzzle Piece" has gone digital! Please see the link below to look at the wonderful articles and work our students have put into the newspaper. Make sure to bookmark it! We will send out reminders to check out any new posts at the end of every month! <https://tinyurl.com/2jhum8f>



Prom 2022 - A Hollywood Night at Heidt

Prom will be Saturday, May 7 from 6-9 p.m. and will be **inside the gym for ALL STUDENTS**. The theme is "A Hollywood Night at Heidt." Tickets will be \$5 per person and students can bring one guest. More specific details to come out the first week of April.

If you have any questions, please email Courtney Reece, Associate Principal at creece@heidtcenter.org



Calling all graduates, participants, and families!

Last call for senior baby pictures! Please send in a baby picture of your senior so that it can be included in the senior slideshow. The slideshow will be streamed 10-minutes before graduation begins. Seniors are not required to send in a baby picture, but it is encouraged.

The end of the year is quickly approaching and that means so is graduation. Save the date for graduation on **Monday, May 23**. Senior families should have received communication regarding participation in the ceremony, and graduation kits. On **May 17**, after the family meeting takes place, we will hold a graduation "practice." We will go over the ceremony structure, what is happening when, who is going to speak, when to turn the tassel. We will share with you the information for accessing the family meeting as the date draws closer. If you have any questions, please email April Carter.

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HEIDT
Happenings



April 2022

Ready Set Work!

Many of you have reached out about summer programming and we wanted to share that we will be holding Ready Set Work! [RSW!] again this summer. Thanks to your feedback, we have redesigned the program to better accommodate the needs and preferences of our families. This year, RSW! will be held June 6-30, Monday-Thursday from 9-3 p.m. RSW! will be in person at the Heidt Center of Excellence. Each week we will be focusing on a new theme, and you can pay for the whole month or just the weeks that interest your student; however, there is a discounted rate for students who sign up for the whole month.

Ready Set Work! is primarily a private pay program. At this time, we do not accept waivers; however, we can accept the family support dollars offered by your county development disability office. These funds are not tied to the waiver. Be sure to reach out to your DD caseworker [e.g. SSA] about these funds, as we understand more are available this year than in past years. In addition, the Heidt Center and Best Point have financial aid available to families who qualify.

Below you can find a breakdown of dates and themes for each week.

June 6-9: Health and Wellness

June 13-16: STEAM: Arts & Technology

June 20-23: Cooking

June 27-30: Community Living

Contact asd@bestpoint.org or call 513-527-7262 for more information.

We anticipate Best Point doing amazing things for Greater Cincinnati. With the combined expertise of our now more than 600 employees, we will grow services, increase the continuum of care, and have the flexibility to place children in a more diverse range of services.

Transition Commencement Ceremony

Mark your calendars! Our commencement ceremony for our student interns will be in our gym on May 24 from 12:30-2 p.m. This ceremony is to celebrate our transition student interns and all their accomplishments as they move onto their next stage in life. Information will be sent directly to transitioning students and their families. This event will be live streamed as well!

HATS Fair

Thank you to everyone who tuned into our live stream of our history, art, transition, and science (HATS) fair! If you were unable to tune in, don't fret! Recordings of the event have been saved and are posted on the Heidt Center of Excellence Facebook page!

Health Matters

According to OAR, (organization for autism research), "It is estimated that as many as 70% of those on the autism spectrum experience co-occurring mental health issues. While some mental health concerns are being identified in individuals as early as preschool, many are more likely to manifest themselves during adolescence and into adulthood." As a means of supporting our students, throughout the month of April in our health classes students at Heidt Center will be learning about emotional regulation, mental health disorders, self-care, building a positive self-image and confidence, mindfulness and empathy for individuals who experience mental health challenges. Class sessions will include mindfulness and movement practice to support behavior regulation and mental and emotional wellness.

PB&J Donations

We are currently seeking donations for peanut butter, jelly, and bread. Our students have signed up to make PB&J sandwiches to be donated to Our Daily Bread soup kitchen in OTR. We appreciate all donations and are excited to participate in this service project. We will be making sandwiches several times over the next few years. Awesome job to our students who truly want to help make a difference in our world!

Testing Continues

We have finished up ACT testing, Alternative Assessment Testing, and have officially moved on to End of Course Testing! The end is in sight! Homeroom teachers will be in touch regarding your child's testing schedule for this month. Please try your best to have your child try to get a good night's rest and attend school during all testing days. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Grondin

Kona Ice

Thanks to our PTO who will be sponsoring Kona Ice at the end of the month as a celebration to end our testing season! Huge kudos to all of our students for putting forth their best efforts!

