

RISE Learning Center

May 2025

# The Rocket Report

## Graduation and Retirements

**RISE Learning Center  
invites you to celebrate  
our Graduates!!!!**



### 2025 Graduates:

**Date:** Tuesday, May 20, 2025  
**Where:** RISE Learning Center  
Gym  
**Time:** 6:30pm

Kaliyah Branom	Avi Phelps
Will Dabney	Desiree Pike
Elijah Earls	Zach Richards
Kasie Kissick	Tionna Street
CJ Mills	

**Retirement  
Is sweet**

RISE honors two of our awesome staff who are “graduating” on to new chapters of their lives. We will miss Mrs. Teresa Ruark and Mr. Brian Anderson dearly, but are celebrating with them as they move on after many years of service at RISE. Please see inside the newsletter for more information..



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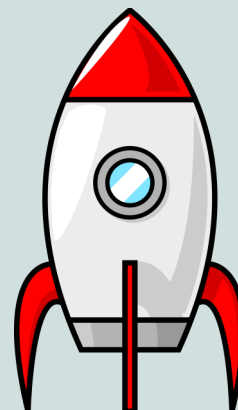
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 *Graduation—May 20*

**Last Day of School—May 29**

First day of School next year—  
July 30



Last Day of  
school is  
May 29th!



RISE Learning Center is often said to have the BEST of the BEST when it comes to staff.

Mr. Matt Etter was voted as Educator of the Year, and Mrs. Elizabeth Landis was voted Support Staff of the Year. Congratulations Mr. Etter and Mrs. Landis!!! Well deserved!



*“Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.” ~Carl Bard*

### UPCOMING EVENTS !

- ⇒ Field Days ~ May 14-16
- ⇒ Graduation ~ May 20
- ⇒ Memorial Day/No School ~ May 26
- ⇒ Last Student Day of School ~ May 29
- ⇒ 2025-26 School Year Begins ~ July 30

### RISE Rockets Special Olympics Track & Field Team Gears Up for Upcoming Competitions!

The RISE Rockets Special Olympics Track & Field team has been working hard and is excited for the upcoming Area Games in just a few weeks! On **Saturday, May 17th**, our athletes will compete at **Brebeuf High School** in events including the 50-meter dash, standing long jump, and softball throw. We would love to have students and staff come out and cheer on our athletes during this special event!

Looking ahead, the team will also be participating in the **Indiana State Games** at **Indiana State University** from **June 6th to 8th**. We wish them the best of luck as they continue to represent our school with pride!



**Special Olympics**  
Indiana

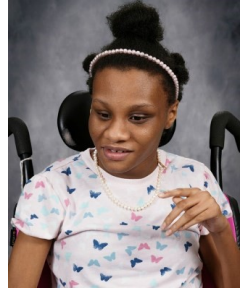




# Meet the RISE 2025 Graduates



**Kaliyah Branom** started her educational career at RISE Learning Center and ended her school career at RISE Learning Center. She spent early elementary in the Life Skills and MOVE programs and joined the MOVE program when she returned to RLC a few years ago. Kaliyah enjoys being around others and participating in class activities. After graduation, Kaliyah will be participating in activities in the community and living at home with her family.



**William Dabney** started his school career at RISE in 2013 and attended RISE Learning Center for the entire duration of his school career. Will's senior year he had Mr. Jackson as his teacher in the conclusion of his high school career. "Though I just had Will for his final year we have seen tremendous progress and growth from Will his last year. He has been able to sit with peers during his lunch time, complete his work during classroom time and complete life skills and vocational skills throughout the school year. We are incredibly proud of the progress will has made both at school and at home. No better way to end Will's time here at RISE than to end with a bang. Good luck Will from Mr. Jackson, Mr. Jonathan and Ms. Kaylynn."



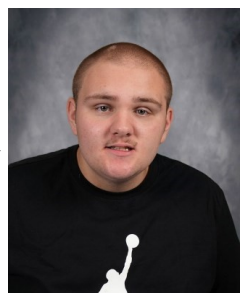
**Elijah Earls** has been a student at RISE Learning Center for 2 years. He has grown into a great young man. His teachers at RISE were Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Kortz. Eli is graduating as a Junior in high school; he worked extra hard to get all of his credits. After graduation Eli wants to be a Diesel Mechanic. Mrs. Kortz is very happy with the growth Eli has had over the last year at RISE. I wish Eli all the best, and he will be missed.



**Kasie Kissick** is in Mrs. Osborne's class for her senior year. Kasie has helped Mrs. Posey's class several times this school year with cleaning the cafeteria tables, sweeping, socializing with peers, and earning PBIS for her vocational tasks. Kasie earned her social learning credits. She is interested in working at Mug and Bun someday, her favorite restaurant! She enjoys riding with grandpa on his motorcycle. Kasie also likes dressing up! Prom was her favorite event of the year! Congratulations Kasie!



**Collin "CJ" Mills** attended RISE Learning Center when he was young. He had several teachers at RISE, in elementary and intermediate, including Ms. Karli DuBois. He attended Cornerstone from 2012-2014 and 2018-2021. He returned to RLC for the majority of his high school career. Collin has been with Ms. Posey since 2021. He has had off campus vocational experience at Goodwill. On campus he has worked in the snack shack, pantry, cafeteria duty, custodial, vending, shopping and stocking. Collin's plans are to settle into his new house, and attend a community day program.







# Meet the RISE 2025 Graduates



**Avi Phelps** has been at RISE Learning Center since middle school. His teachers at RLC have been Mrs. Ashley Dilk, Mrs. Linda Dreibelbis, and Ms. Renee Posey. He has been in Posey's classroom since 2019. Avi has participated in the Transition Life Skills classroom and programming. He has had off campus vocational experiences at the Perry Township Government Center and Goodwill. On campus he has worked in the snack shack, pantry, cafeteria duty, custodial, vending, shopping and stocking. Avi plans to pick services that appeal to him and help him be independent in his adult life.



**Desiree Pike** has been a student at Rise learning Center for three years. Her teachers have been Mr. Wagner, Ms. Crabb, and Ms. Kortz. She has really improved over the three years she has been here. She has worked hard at getting her credits to graduate. Desiree plans on getting a full-time job and she also wants to train her dog to help her with anxiety. She will be successful in her adult life.

**Zach Richards** started here at RISE in 2011 and had a break and attended a group home from 2023. Zach came back to RISE in 2024, attending RISE half days Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, until the completion of his senior year. Zach has been in Mr. Jackson's class for his senior year. "The time I have had Zach in my class he has been a pleasure to teach. Zach completes his task and both vocational and job task with 100% completion. Zach has done great in my class and we are thankful for even the short time we have had with him in my classroom." We wish Zach the best of luck in his future endeavors from Mr. Jackson, Mr. Jonathan, Ms. Kaylynn.

No Pic  
Available



**Tionna Street** started in Mrs. Posey's class during the 2023-2024 school year. She helped Mrs. Laura Smith's elementary and intermediate adapted art classes (earning her service learning credits) and studied Algebra with Dr. Carson before his retirement. Her senior year, she is in Mrs. Osborne's class. Tionna is interested in social services and teaching. She enjoys helping others and she is very organized and detailed oriented. Tionna will be a wonderful asset in any area where she can use her talents and skills in helping others. Congratulations Tionna!

# RLC Staff Transitioning into Retirement



*Wishing each of you a Happy Retirement! May your new journey be filled with joy and contentment! Thank you for endless patience and motivation and we will miss you at RISE!*

**Brian Anderson** has been with RLC for 29 years! He started in 1995 as an Instructional Assistant working with students in all areas, ending with the Middle School Functional Life Skills Academic classroom at the beginning of this school year. He was voted Support Staff of the Year in 2021. Brian was always willing to help out in any area as needed and students responded to him well. Alongside working at RISE, Brian also has worked and continues to work at Lutherwood Residential Treatment Center as Direct Care Staff and Shift Supervisor for 22+ years.



Brian enjoys personal life with family...his son, sister, mother, and nieces and nephews; also with cousin Eugene (who also retired from RISE a few years ago). When not working, Brian loves listening to music, going to the gym, and watching sports. His plans for retirement include going to a Dallas Cowboys football game, getting more involved in church, and volunteering more at Old Bethel Food Pantry.

Brian feels he achieved his goal of retiring from RISE. He says he left happy, truly believes this place is still in good hands, staff puts kids first, and the atmosphere is still great. His favorite quote is from Dr. Scott Carson, former director of RISE, "What we do here is hard: Be nice to each other and help each other." Brian leaves RISE with this... "I want the staff to continue to work hard, be patient, and continue to put the kids first.

Thank you everybody, from day one to present day. We have a bunch of great staff and I have learned to become friends with good people at RISE Learning Center." Brian continues to come back to RISE a few days a week to sub throughout our buildings. As we miss him every day, we are thrilled to see him when he subs. Thank you, Brian, for your 29+ years at RISE!!!

**Teresa Ruark** has dedicated 18 years to working at RISE. She started at RISE as an Instructional Assistant in 2007 and became the Administrative Assistant/ECA Treasurer in 2011. In Teresa's time as the administrative assistant, she has worked for three directors, Tim Smith, Scott Carson, and Nikki Cahill. Before RISE, she worked at Merchants Bank, Faith Christian School, and Perry Schools as a sub. Teresa was voted RISE's Support Staff of the Year in 2024.

Teresa enjoys family time with her husband, Steve, and their five children and their spouses, as well as, her 9 grandchildren (with the 10th due in July). She enjoys playing pickleball, reading, walking, and working out. After her full retirement at the end of June, she plans to spend more time with family and maybe find a part-time job.

Teresa's favorite bible verses...<sup>13</sup>You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit them together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it. <sup>15</sup>You were there while I was being formed in utter seclusion! <sup>16</sup>You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your book! Psalm 139:13-16.



Teresa is excited, but also a bit sad about leaving RISE. "I love RISE Learning Center—staff and students! I will miss everyone at RISE. I am forever impressed by those who serve our students and with their whole hearts!" Teresa, we love you and will miss you!!!



**Thank you Ms. Leanne and Ms. Heather for taking care of RLC students and staff during breakfast and lunch! We appreciate you!!**



### ***Resources available ....***

#### **iCan Bike (day camp)**

Ages: 8-adult  
Location: Perry Park Ice Rink, 451 E. Stop 11 Road, Indianapolis, IN 46227  
Dates: June 17-24  
Phone: 317-782-8888  
Email: lorem@eastersealscrossroads.org  
Website: <https://www.eastersealscrossroads.org/services/childrens-services/camps/>

#### **Greenwood**

#### **My Summer Journey (day camp)**

Ages: 13-19  
Location: 2455 Fairview Place, Greenwood, IN 46142  
Dates: June 10-28  
Phone: 317-676-4222  
Email: k.higgins@autismcc-in.org  
Website: <https://autismcc-in.org/our-programs/my-summer-journey/>

#### **Indiana Disability Resource Finder**

<https://www.indianadisabilityresourcefinder.org/view/event/6709/indianapolis-disability-resource-fair>

#### **Embracing Abilities (day camp)**

Ages: 5-adult  
Location: 2234 Sheek Rd, Greenwood, IN 46143  
Dates: June 3 - July 26  
Phone: 317-825-8326  
Email: christynap@embracingabilities.com  
Website: <https://www.embracingabilities.com/>

#### **AMC Theatres**

Check website for location, date and times AMC is proud to partner with the Autism Society to offer unique movie showings where we turn the lights up, and turn the sound down, so you can get up, dance, walk, shout or sing! Our Sensory Friendly Film program is available on the second and fourth Saturday (family-friendly) and Wednesday evenings (mature audiences) of every month.

Please check your local theatre listings for specific show-times, and don't forget to share your family fun with #AMCSensoryFriendly.

<https://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films>







# May School Nurse Newsletter



## Important End-of-Year Reminders & Summer Tips



### Medication Pick-Up Deadline

All student medications must be picked up by an adult no later than **3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 2025.**



Per school policy, any medication left in the clinic after this time will be safely destroyed. Medications cannot be stored over the summer.

### Prepare for the 2025-2026 School Year

Summer is a great time to schedule:

- ✓ **Vaccines** your child may be missing or due for
- ✓ **Updated physicals** for sports or school
- ✓ **New care plans or action plans** for students with medical needs

Please be sure to bring updated medical forms and care plans to the school nurse before the start of the new school year.



### Stay Safe This Summer!

☀️ **Stay Hydrated** – Drink plenty of water, especially on hot days

☀️ **Use Sunscreen** – Apply SPF 30+ every 2 hours when outdoors

🐛 **Bug Safety** – Use repellent and check for ticks after playing outside

🚲 **Wear Helmets** – Whether biking, skating, or scooting, protect those heads!

💧 **Water Safety** – Always supervise children near water

🍎 **Healthy Eating** – Keep up with fruits, veggies, and active play







# RISE LEARNING CENTER 2025-2026 School Calendar

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		2

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						21

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				21

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	13

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						17

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			15

**July**  
4 Independence Day  
28-29 Professional Meeting Days  
28 **Back-to-School Night**  
30 **Student First Day**

## August

**September**  
1 Labor Day Holiday  
26 End of Grading Period (42 days)

## October

1 E-Learning Day  
6-17 Fall Break  
20 **School Reconvenes**

## November

26-28 Thanksgiving Holiday

## December

19 Last student day before break  
End of Grading period (47 days)  
End of 1st Semester (89 days)  
22-31 Winter Break

## January

1-2 Winter Break  
5 **School Reconvenes**  
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
19 Snow Make-Up Day to be determined by January 12

## February

16 Presidents' Day Holiday  
16 Snow Make-Up Day to be determined by February 9

## March

6 End of Grading Period (43 days)  
16-27 Spring Break  
30 **School reconvenes**

## April

## May

25 Memorial Day  
28 Last Student Day  
End of Grading Period (48 days)  
End of 2nd Semester (91 days)  
29 Teacher Record Day -full day  
Snow Make-Up Day, if needed

## June

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

19

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

19

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				12

12

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		22

22

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						19

91

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Green - E-Learning

Blue = No School/Holiday

Yellow = Staff Only Day/No Students


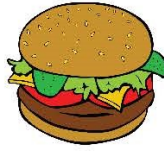











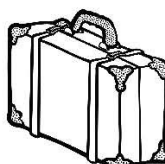




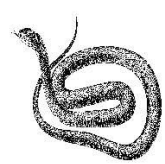
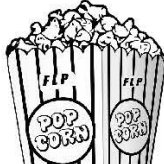
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# June 2025


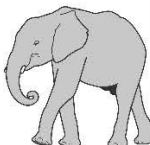









For each **picture** below:

1. Name it and tell where you could find it.
2. Describe what color(s) it is
3. Tell two things you know about it
4. What is it made out of?
5. Use the word in a GREAT sentence.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
					Find 4 things outside that are red. Tell your family about them.
					Look around the house and find all the clocks. How many did you find?
					Find 8 things in your house that start with the B sound.
					Name all the animals you can think of in one minute. Have someone count!

# Summer Fun Activity

# JULY 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
	Find 5 things in your house that start with the S sound.			Friday starts with F. How many things in the kitchen can you find that start with F?	Go outside and find as many flying things as you can.
$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 59 \\ + 27 \\ \hline 86 \end{array}$		Tell someone in your family 3 things you know about chickens.			Go outside and find 3 bugs. Name them!
Name 5 animals on a farm.			Name 6 animals that live in the ocean.		Did you see fireworks this summer? Describe them in 3 sentences.
Draw four kinds of fruit	Name three animals you might see at the zoo		What is the first thing you have to do when you brush your teeth?		School will start soon. What are three things you need to get ready to take with you?

For each picture above:

1. Name it and tell where you could find it.
2. Describe what color(s) it is
3. Tell two things you know about it
4. What is it made out of?
5. Use the word in a GREAT sentence.

# Summer Fun Activity