



**FAR Conservatory
of Therapeutic and Performing Arts**

**FAR Conservatory is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
serving the special needs community**

2011-2012 Catalog of Classes
Updates to this schedule can be found
online at
www.farconservatory.org

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Registration forms are in the
center of this booklet

**FAR Conservatory is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
serving the special needs community**

MISSION STATEMENT

FAR Conservatory promotes understanding and provides education for children and adults with special needs through therapeutic opportunities in the arts, recreation and leisure that enrich its students, their families and the greater community.

FAR Important Dates

Fall Semester September 6, 2011 through January 28, 2012
Make-up week: January 30-February 4, 2012
Flutes, Friends and Fa-La-La Fundraiser November 16, 2011
Winter Semester February 6, 2012 through June 9, 2012
Make-up week: June 11-16, 2012
Recital Sunday, June 10, 2012
Summer Semester June 23, 2012 through August 4, 2012
There will be no scheduled make-up week for the summer semester
Camp FAR Away June 18-22, 2012
Camp FAR Out August 6-17, 2012

Scheduled Closed Dates

October 3-7, 2011 Church Rummage Sale
November 14-17, 2011 Flutes, Friends and Fa-La-La
November 24-26, 2011 Thanksgiving
December 23, 2011-January 2, 2012 Christmas & New Year
January 16, 2012 Martin Luther King Day
March 10, 2012 Church Music Festival
April 2-9, 2012 Spring Break
May 7-11, 2012 Church Rummage Sale
May 28, 2012 Memorial Day
June 18-22, 2012 Church Vacation Bible School
July 4, 2012 Independence Day

Please note that FAR will be closed Fridays during the summer semester.

FAR Conservatory

TABLE OF CONTENTS

How FAR Works	Page 2
Art Therapy	Page 3
Dance/Movement	Page 4
Inclusion Groups	Page 5
Music Therapy	Page 6
Parent and Tot Programs	Page 8
Theater Arts	Page 8
Social Activity Programs and Life Skills	Page 9
Creative Tutoring	Page 10
Therapeutic Sports and Recreation Programs	Page 10
Skating Programs	Page 11
Camps at FAR	Page 12
Special Events	Page 13
Locations	Page 15
Scholarship Information	Page 15
Emergency Closings	Page 15
Therapists and Instructors	Page 16
Policies	Page 22
Grievance Procedure	Page 23
Registration Information	Page 23
FAQs	Page 24
FAR Board of Directors	Page 26
Tuition Information	Page 26

How FAR Works

Welcome to FAR

FAR classes are designed to meet the individual needs of each client. All classes/activities are held at the First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, MI or our new Macomb County location, 55355 Mound Rd., Shelby Twp., MI 48316, unless otherwise noted in the course description.

Assessments/Annual evaluation

New students are given an assessment by a certified therapist or instructor prior to registration in order to assess abilities and interests, determine correct class placement, including admission into group classes, and set student goals. An initial assessment is not required for hockey, and class placement is determined by the instructor. All returning students are evaluated biannually to determine progress and to adjust goals as needed. FAR charges an **annual** evaluation fee of \$50.00.

Registration procedure

Once the assessment process is complete, a private session is scheduled with the treating therapist, or the student is referred to an appropriate group class. The student must submit all required registration forms to the office prior to attending class. Required forms include the **Registration Form, Yearly Enrollment Form, Emergency/Medical Form and signed Code of Conduct**. Full payment is expected at the time of registration unless other arrangements have been made with the office. Registration forms can be found in the center of this catalog and on our website.

Semester system

FAR classes are offered on a semester enrollment basis. There are three semesters during the year: fall, winter and summer. Registrations are accepted at any time, and midterm registrants' tuition will be prorated for the remaining weeks of the current semester.

Skating, Hockey and Bowling programs

These recreation programs are held off-site and follow their own schedule according to facility availability. Check with the office prior to registration for complete schedule information.

Fee structure

Tuition only covers part of the cost of programs at FAR. FAR is able to keep tuition costs low through the generosity of donors and sponsors. Please contact Arlene Kass, FAR Executive Director, for sponsorship opportunities. Details on tuition costs and fees can be found starting on page 26.

Scholarships

Due to the generous support of sponsors and donors, FAR is able to offer a limited number of scholarships for students based on financial need. Details about the scholarship program can be found on page 15. A scholarship application form can be found near the center of this catalog.

CLASS LISTINGS

Classes/activities are held at the First Presbyterian Church, which is located at 1669 West Maple in Birmingham, MI, unless noted otherwise. FAR is now offering limited art and music therapy sessions at our new Macomb County facility located in the St. Thomas Community Presbyterian Church on Mound Road, just north of 25 Mile Road at 55355 Mound Road, Shelby Twp., MI 48316.

Art Therapy

Art therapy uses visual and tactile expression with art materials to foster mental and physical well-being through self-expression. It is a helpful non-verbal communication tool for those with limited vocabulary and/or those who have difficulty speaking. Art is a natural form of expression for all people ranging from young children to the elderly. The creation of art is a physical process that improves both fine and gross motor skills. Art also provides tactile and visual stimulation. The artwork is a tangible product that can indicate progress toward set goals. The completed piece of artwork can increase self-esteem and offers a sense of accomplishment.

Art therapists provide a supportive environment where creativity can thrive and places emphasis on the art-making process rather than on the finished product. Working with an art therapist improves social skills, develops effective communication and provides a safe outlet in which to work through powerful emotions.

Private Art Therapy

Therapists work one-on-one with each student to achieve individual goals. Session activities vary in relation to client interest. Therapists are available Monday through Saturday. Requires a \$15 materials fee in addition to tuition. See private fee schedule on page 27.

Ceramics (group or private activity)

Hand-building techniques are taught to help increase fine motor skills and sequencing. Projects evolve from a lump of clay, to an object, to a completely glazed and finished artwork.

Group session — Thursday: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

This group is run by Lisa Crystal, Art Therapist.

Requires a \$15 materials fee in addition to tuition.

See group or private fee schedule on page 27.

Photography

In this class, students learn camera techniques as well as ways to use photos in collage or album design. Photographs created by the student, from home and from magazines, are used. Having a digital camera is recommended but optional. Available as a private or a group session.

Requires a \$15 materials fee in addition to tuition.

This group is run by Tessa Bird, Art Therapist.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Dance/Movement

Dance and movement foster growth and self-worth. Dance strengthens and increases a student's physical repertoire, promotes healthy movement, reduces tension and provides new ways of perceiving one's self and the environment. It is effective with verbal and non-verbal individuals and with a variety of diagnoses. Offered as a private activity or for groups of three or more students.

Private Dance/Movement

Students work one-on-one with the dance instructor to achieve individual goals. Session activities vary in relation to client interest.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

See private fee schedule on page 27.

Group Dance/Movement

Ballet

Introduces the basics: posture, alignment and balance.

Creative Movement/Dance

Introduces students to cross-cultural movement patterns and rhythms. Students will explore movement with the help of props, such as yarn balls, scarves, bells, and bubbles. Two age groups: 4-7 and 8-14.

Jazz

Teaches the basics in rhythmic movement. Dance forms include lyrical movement as well as upbeat contemporary movements.

Beginning Tap

Introduces the basic elements of tap, including balance, rhythm and coordination.

Movement and Music

Combines music and dance therapy.

Modern Dance

Students learn to feel the music and move according to the emotions generated by the piece that they are hearing. Emphasis is on posture, stretching and rhythm.

Hip Hop

Students learn rhythmic, isolated body movements to upbeat techno music.

Yoga

Students are exposed to balance, stretching, stress reduction, visualization and basic yoga moves. Classes are adjusted to age and experience.

Contact the office for days and times.

These groups are run by Lauren Neuman

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Inclusion Groups

You asked for inclusion, and we're giving it to you. The following groups allow siblings, friends or other family members to join FAR students. Pay only for the FAR student and the others attend free of charge.

Singing Hands

Students participate in a unique choral experience incorporating both singing and sign language. In addition to developing both signing and vocal skills, social skills, teamwork and cooperation are addressed. This inclusion group is open to children from ages 7 to 13.

Contact the office for day and time.

This group is run by Patty Karle, Music Therapist.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Little Music Makers

Young students explore general music experiences in a fun, family-based group setting. Group addresses and strengthens language, cognitive and social-emotional skills through music. This inclusion group is open to children from infants to age 5 and their parent or caregiver.

Tuesday: 10:15-11:00 a.m.

This group is run by Patty Karle, Music Therapist.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Lyric Ballet

Students work on typical ballet moves with a concentration on the feeling generated by the music. Students work barefoot so that they can feel the musical vibrations through the floor.

Contact the office for day and time.

This group is run by Lauren Neuman.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Art

Art therapy can be the glue that bonds families. Sessions are designed around popular favorite topics and may focus on the special needs child's strengths. Siblings validate self-esteem while modeling techniques that advance skills and build communication bridges. The therapist structures, as well as facilitates, each session using various mediums in order to promote meaningful social interactions for the siblings.

Contact the office for day and time.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Hiking for Fun and Fitness

Walking is a great source of low-impact exercise that can ease you into a higher level of fitness and health. This group is a great social activity for those who love exploring nature and the great outdoors. The class meets at various parks and nature centers throughout the semester. In case of inclement weather, we will walk indoors. Dress appropriately for the weather and wear your walking shoes.

Contact the office for days and times.

This group is run by Sara Renke, Recreation Therapist.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Music Therapy

Music therapy uses music to accomplish therapeutic goals. It promotes the restoration, maintenance and improvement of mental, emotional and physical health. Music therapy offers a means of verbal and non-verbal communication and an opportunity for self-expression. Music therapy increases social, cognitive, motor and emotional skills. FAR students may participate in community performances and recitals that can greatly enhance their musical experience, motivation and overall development.

Private Music Therapy

Music therapy goals are created according to individual needs in conjunction with parent, guardian and client input. Session activities vary in relation to client interest and may include playing instruments, dancing and singing.

Board certified therapists are available Monday through Saturday.

See private fee schedule on page 27.

Private Adaptive Music Lessons

Vocal or instrumental adaptive lessons in piano, guitar, flute, violin, woodwind instruments, drums, recorder, percussion and other instruments. Lessons incorporate therapeutic as well as musical or performance goals with an emphasis on both the process and the product. Therapists are available Monday through Saturday.

See private fee schedule on page 27.

Group Activities

Group music activities give clients an opportunity to develop social, communication and motor skills while building self-esteem. Groups vary according to age and ability. FAR will form a group upon request if there are three or more interested participants.

See fee schedule on page 27.

Adult Chimes Choir — Students learn songs using tone chimes, percussion instruments and sign language. Clients with any special need or ability level are welcome.

Tuesday: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

FAR Beyond — FAR's junior band emphasizes developing group music and social skills. Clients do not need to be proficient with an instrument to join. Band members are selected from students attending FAR who have been recommended by their individual therapist.

Monday: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Senior Band — Performance-based group which exposes clients to a variety of musical styles and genres. Vocal or instrumental experience is recommended. Band members are selected from students attending FAR who have been recommended by their individual therapist.

Wednesday: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Singing, Signing and Percussion — Clients participate in a variety of musical experiences in order to enhance communication and social skills.

Tuesday: 5:00-5:45 p.m.

Parent and Tot Programs

Parent and Tot classes foster growth and self-worth through interaction between the therapist, student and caregiver. The program promotes healthy movement, reduces tension, improves communication and provides new ways of perceiving one's self and the environment.

Parent and Tot Exploratory Play

A class designed for parents and tots aged 1-4. This class uses a combination of songs, games, gross motor activities and crafts to provide a variety of opportunities for children to actively learn and explore new experiences. A parent or caregiver must be present at each class.

Contact the office for days and times.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Parent and Tot Signing

Parents and tots aged 1-4 work together to strengthen important language, cognitive and social-emotional skills. Fun games and activities help teach simple, easy-to-do signs to improve communication with their parents and caregivers. A parent or caregiver must be present at each class.

Contact the office for days and times.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Theater Arts

Theater Arts offer students an opportunity to learn performance skills and develop confidence and poise. Theater students participate in performances and recitals.

Musical Theater

This group is open to those who are interested in singing, dancing and acting. Clients rehearse and perform a musical at the end of each semester.

Thursday: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

This group is run by Kelsey Juett, Music Therapist.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Introduction to Drama

Students explore voice exercises, body movement warm-ups, imagination exercises, and endeavor to perform a short playlet utilizing costume pieces.

Contact the office for days and times.

This group is run by Lauren Neuman.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Social Activity Programs and Life Skills

FAR offers a variety of social activities and life skills classes designed to help students meet life's challenges with confidence. Group activities allow students to interact with peers and learn social skills to help them succeed.

Computer Skills

A class for persons who are new to computers. This class teaches basic skills in Microsoft Word and Internet Explorer including how to use a mouse, open programs, enter and save information, create folders and organize documents.

This group is run by Sara Renke, Recreation Therapist.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Cooking Class

Students develop skills in planning and preparing meals. The class addresses nutrition, health issues and kitchen safety. All ages welcome.

Tuesday: 4:00-5:30 p.m.

This group is run by Sara Renke, Recreation Therapist.

Requires a \$15 materials fee in addition to tuition.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Social Club (ages 13 and up)

Activities will be held twice a month at FAR or out in the community at different locations. A list of activities will be on the FAR website, www.farconservatory.org. Students should be dropped off and picked up after the program is finished. Some programs require additional fees.

Tuesday: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

This group is run by Sara Renke, Recreation Therapist.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Sunday Fun — summer semester only

Sunday: 5:00-6:30 p.m.

This group is run by Cathy Fresia.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Friday Night Parties (ages 13 and up)

This activity provides a fun social experience for teens and young adults. Party themes are different every month. Parties are usually held at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church on the northwest corner of Telegraph and Lone Pine Roads. Preregistration is preferred. Information about upcoming parties is sent via email and is posted online. Parties are typically held on the third Friday of the month from 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Cost is \$15 per party or \$10 if preregistered by the Tuesday before the party.

Creative Tutoring

Private tutoring sessions with a certified tutor to improve reading and math performance. Exercises are designed to facilitate movement through a math problem; reading comprehension is improved by honing writing skills in conjunction with word identification. Instructor is Beverly Bailey. Call the FAR office to schedule a day and time. Sessions typically last one hour.

Therapeutic Sports and Recreation Programs

The goal of the sports programs is to offer the opportunity for success while learning the rules and guidelines of specific activities. The focus is on individual and team skills, personal goals, group interaction skills, sportsmanship and teamwork, while improving social, cognitive, motor and physical skills, self-esteem and self-awareness.

Bowling

Bowling is held at Hartfield Lanes, 3490 12 Mile Road in Berkley. This is a group activity geared toward participation in the Special Olympics.

Thursday: 4:00-6:00 p.m.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Fun and Fitness (ages 10 and up)

A motivating and fun group exercise program focusing on flexibility, balance and conditioning using core fitness and light weights. Workout clothes, mat and water bottle required.

Contact the office for day and time.

See group fee schedule on page 27.

Skating Programs

The goal of the sports programs is to offer the opportunity for success while learning the rules and guidelines of specific activities. The focus is on individual and team skills, personal goals, group interaction skills, sportsmanship and teamwork, while improving social, cognitive, motor and physical skills, self-esteem and self-awareness.

Varsity Ice Hockey

Strengthens basic skating and hockey skills as well as overall knowledge of the game of hockey. Emphasis is on development of group interaction, skills and teamwork. Varsity hockey plays games and participates in tournaments. Saturday: 3:15-4:45 p.m. at the John Lindell Ice Arena in Royal Oak, 1403 Lexington Blvd.

2011-12 Season — September 10, 2011 through March 31, 2012.

No sessions October 15, November 26, December 3, 24 or 31.

Only one registration required for the entire season.

25 weeks..... \$475

Figure Skating

Figure and speed skating group classes are held at the Birmingham Ice Arena, 2300 E. Lincoln. Rental figure skates are available at the concession counter of the rink for \$3. A detailed schedule will be distributed during the first week of class. Figure skating begins September 11, 2011. A recital will be held at the end of the skating year.

Beginner Figure Skating

All ability levels are welcome to join this introduction to ice skating. Teaches basic skating maneuvers and skills — snowplow and hockey stop, the correct way to fall and get back up, forward and backward swizzles, and basic stroking emphasizing balance and posture.

Sunday: 4:00 p.m. on the studio ice.

Fall semester: 17 sessions..... \$323

Winter semester: 13 sessions.... \$247

Intermediate/Advanced Figure Skating

Instructor's approval required for placement in this class. The focus is on further development of skating skills learned in Beginner Ice Skating.

Sunday: 3:00 p.m. on the full arena ice.

Fall semester: 17 sessions..... \$323

Winter semester: 13 sessions.... \$247

Speed Skating

Instructor's approval required for placement in this class. Students must know basic skating maneuvers and skills.

Sunday: 3:00 p.m. on the full arena ice

Fall semester: 17 sessions..... \$323

Winter semester: 13 sessions.... \$247

Junior Varsity Ice Hockey

This program teaches basic hockey skills — hockey stop, backward skating, stick and puck handling. Emphasis is on development of group interaction skills and teamwork. Rental skates are available at the concession counter of the rink for \$3. On the studio ice.

Sunday: 5:00 p.m. at the Birmingham Ice Arena, 2300 E. Lincoln.

Fall semester: 17 sessions..... \$323

Winter semester: 13 sessions.... \$247

Camps at FAR

Camp FAR Out (ages 3-20)

A two-week performing arts workshop for children with special needs. This workshop enhances social skills, group interaction and growth through performing arts. A public performance will be held on August 17, 2012. If you are interested in having your child attend camp, please detach the form on the next page and return it to the FAR office — you will be contacted when camp planning begins in May 2012. If you have questions, please call for further information.

August 6-17, 2012: 9:00-11:30 a.m. \$200

Camp FAR Away at Camp Skyline (ages 13-21)

A six-day camping experience for teens. Camp FAR Away includes traditional outdoor camp activities as well as music, art, dance and recreational therapy. Space is limited to 30 campers. Your cost for camp is \$495, which includes all food, lodging and extra goodies (the actual cost of the camp is \$995 but \$500 for each camper is subsidized by grants and donations). Terrain at Camp Skyline does not permit wheelchair access. FAR does not handle reservations for Camp FAR Away — contact the Camp Skyline office at (248) 644-2087, ext. 144.

June 18-23, 2012

For campers 22 or older, call Skyline directly at (248) 644-2087, ext. 144 for information about their Camp For Me for adult campers.

Special Events

Flutes, Friends and Fa-La-La

Please join us for our annual fundraising gala Flutes, Friends and Fa-La-La, Wednesday, November 16, 2011. This special event showcases our talented students with the help of special guests Alexander Zonjic and Josh White Jr. Enjoy live performances, shopping at the FAR Bazaar and a wonderful silent auction. Proceeds from "Flutes" fund scholarships for FAR students.

Recital

The FAR Recital will be on Sunday, June 10, 2012. There will be two recitals and the student will be assigned to ONE recital time by their therapist. Recital information will be given out at the beginning of June.

FPC Programs

The First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham graciously houses many FAR programs and activities. They also offer inclusion programs for persons with special needs.

FAR is a nonsectarian organization and we forward the information about these programs on to keep you informed about happenings that may be suitable for your family.

At this time FPC is offering a program for children called Celebration Station. This is an inclusive education experience offered at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning.

FPC offers a "No Shush" worship service for families, caregivers and others called Rejoicing Spirits. These services will be held once a month on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

Locations

FAR Conservatory is located in the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham directly across from the fire station on Maple between Cranbrook and Southfield. Unless otherwise specified, classes are held at the church building, 1669 W. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

FAR has recently opened a new location in Macomb County with limited services on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We are located in the St. Thomas Community Presbyterian Church on Mound Road, just north of 25 Mile Road at 55355 Mound Road, Shelby Twp., MI 48316.

Scholarship Information

For families facing financial difficulties, FAR has scholarship funds available. Once approved, up to two classes per semester can be funded each fiscal year as funds allow. Eligibility is based on a sliding scale that considers household income and number of residents. You must submit copies of your current tax returns in order for the application to be considered. The application process is anonymous and strictly confidential. A scholarship application can be found in the center of this catalog or online at www.farconservatory.org. Please submit the application with proper documentation to the FAR office.

For additional information, call the FAR office. Scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the FAR Scholarship Committee.

Emergency Closings

FAR follows the Birmingham School District in determining whether to close for inclement weather or other unscheduled school cancellations. In the event of severe weather conditions, please check the status of the Birmingham schools before coming to class. Emergency closings are also posted on the FAR website, www.farconservatory.org. You will NOT be called if we close for this type of situation.

Therapists and Instructors



Beverly Bailey

Certified Tutor
Marygrove College, BA

Beverly is an experienced tutor in math, reading and writing skills. She has worked extensively with learners of all ages and disabilities, including autism, Williams Syndrome, attention deficit disorder and cognitive development disorders. As an experienced classroom teacher, she has developed Math and Reading labs for various public schools.

Available: Monday through Saturday (except Friday).



Tessa Bird, MEd ATR-BC

Art Therapist, Photographer
College of Creative Arts, BFA
Wayne State University, MEd

Tessa is qualified to work with all ages and various populations including autism spectrum disorders, emotionally impaired, cognitive development disorders, and traumatic brain injury. In addition to being a board certified art therapist, Tessa has a degree in photography and offers adaptive lessons that she may incorporate into her therapies.

Available: Monday through Thursday.



Katie Carter, MT-BC

Music Therapist
Radford University, BM

Katie has worked with clients with special needs of all ages. She has experience with diverse populations including: autism, cerebral palsy, moderate to severe cognitive impairments, as well as visual and hearing impairments. Disciplines: flute, voice and guitar.

Available: Monday through Thursday.

Lisa Crystal, MEd ATR

Art Therapist

Michigan State University, BA

Wayne State University, MEd

Lisa has experience working with adults and children in hospital, school and university settings. She works with diverse populations diagnosed with mental illness, as well as clients with autism, traumatic brain injury, cognitive and emotional impairments.

Available: Tuesday and Thursday.



Catherine Fresia

Skating Instructor, JV Hockey Coach, Recreation Specialist

Springfield College, BA

Cathy is an experienced instructor in figure skating and speed skating. She has coached the FAR skating program for thirteen years and is a Certified Special Olympics Figure and Speed Skating Coach for Team FAR. She also holds certifications as United States Gymnastics Association Instructor, YMCA Fitness Specialist, Specialist in Exercise Therapy, and is a member of Special Olympics Therapeutic Skating with The United States Figure Skating Association.



Darlene Herm, MT-BC

Music Therapist

Western Michigan University, BM

Darlene is experienced in working with children and adults with developmental disabilities, mild to severe cognitive impairment, multiple impairments, hearing impaired, Williams Syndrome, autism spectrum disorders, emotional impairments, traumatic brain injury. Disciplines: French horn, voice, guitar, piano, sign language.

Available: Monday through Friday.





Kelsey Juett, MT-BC

Music Therapist
Wartburg College, Iowa, BME-MT

Kelsey has experience with children and adults with developmental disabilities, cognitive impairments, multiple impairments, autism spectrum disorders, emotional impairments, traumatic brain injury, and dually diagnosed (both cognitively and emotionally impaired). Disciplines: voice, guitar, piano, flute, drums, all woodwind and brass instruments (beginner through intermediate), strings (beginner).

Available: Tuesday through Saturday.



Patty Karle, MT-BC

Music Therapist
Mt. St. Joseph College, BA

Patty has experience working with clients of all ages and challenges including sensory processing disorder, autism and neurologic injuries. She is also fluent in sign language. Disciplines: Piano, saxophone, voice, sign language.

Available: Monday through Thursday.



Jeanette Lillystone CTRS, MSA

Recreational Therapist
Michigan State University, BS
Central Michigan University, MSA — Health Administration

Jeannie has experience working with adults and children in hospital and community settings. She has worked extensively with traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury and other cognitive disorders. She specializes in Aquatic Therapy and Community Reintegration as well as program development and group activities.

Available: Tuesday through Thursday

Hayley Mieras, MT-BC

Music Therapist

Michigan State University, BA

Hayley has over ten years' experience with adults and children diagnosed as severely cognitively impaired, severely multiply impaired, emotionally impaired, dually diagnosed (both cognitively and emotionally impaired) and autism spectrum disorder. Certified in Kindermusik. Disciplines: Piano, voice, guitar, drums. Hayley is FAR's music therapy internship director.

Available: Monday through Thursday.



Lauren Neuman

Dance, Theater Arts and Yoga Instructor

Eastern Michigan University, Therapeutic Recreation

Lauren has taught ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical dance, hip-hop, break dancing, yoga and tumbling, and also has experience in choreography and theater. Lauren has worked with special needs populations through Oakland Schools.

Available: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.



Ben Niemiec

Varsity Hockey Coach

University of Michigan, BGS

Ben has seventeen years' experience coaching and volunteering with FAR skating programs. Ben coaches Varsity Hockey and is a Certified USA Hockey Coach.





Gayle Owens MM, MT-BC

Music Therapist
Florida State University

Gayle has experience with children and adults with cognitive impairments, physical disabilities, autism spectrum disorder and emotional impairments. Gayle received the VSA Michigan Teacher of the Year award in 2003.

Disciplines: Piano, guitar.

Available: Monday evenings.



Sara Renke, CTRS

Recreation Therapist
Central Michigan University, BAA

Sara has worked with a variety of people with special needs of all ages, including traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, autism spectrum disorders, cognitive impairments, physical impairments, as well as visual and hearing impairments. She is currently continuing her education in American Sign Language at Baker College in the Interpreting Training Program. Sara also has experience with various adaptive outdoor sports.

Available: Monday-Friday.



Megan Schmidt, MA, LLPC

Art Therapist
University of Michigan, BA
Wayne State University, MA

Megan was trained as a counselor and art therapist. She has experience working with children and adults in community, medical, and mental health settings. She has worked with clients with autism, developmental disabilities, and physical disabilities.

Available: Wednesday and Friday in Macomb and Monday in Birmingham.

Erin Shahly, MEd

Art Therapist

Saginaw State University, BA

Wayne State University, MEd

Erin has experience working with children, adults and families on cognitive and social development as well as literacy enhancement and therapeutic arts programming. She incorporates the creative process into a multi-sensory approach to enhance learning and increase communication among individuals with learning and developmental disabilities, cognitive and emotional impairments and autism spectrum Disorders.

Available: Monday, Thursday and Saturday.



Policies

REFUND POLICY

Requests for refunds are to be directed to the FAR office. Refunds can be granted only under the following circumstances:

- Cancellation of the class by FAR due to insufficient enrollment.
- An agreement between FAR and the student, parent or guardian that the student will withdraw from the class. Only the unused portion of the registration fee will be refunded. The FAR office will NOT consider a refund for any classes prior to being contacted by the client. Refunds will be at the discretion of the FAR office.

CREDIT FOR MISSED CLASSES

Group classes

If a student misses a group class, there will be no refunds unless FAR or the instructor cancels a class and a make-up session cannot be scheduled.

Individual classes

If a student cancels one or more sessions for individual therapy, he/she is entitled to ONE make-up session. **One week per semester has been set aside for make-ups during the fall and winter semesters.** Make-up sessions will be held after the semester in which the absence occurred (if the student chooses to miss this make-up session, no credit will be given). Make-up sessions during the summer semester can take place during the semester or the two weeks of Camp FAR Out. If additional make-up sessions are needed due to cancellation by FAR or the instructor, and the student and therapist are unable to schedule a time, a credit will be issued to the student. Credits may be applied to future tuition fees and expire one year from the date of issuance.

If a student is more than ten minutes late for a private half-hour class, it is considered an absence and will NOT be made up. All therapies have a set schedule and being late compromises this.

PLEASE NOTE: A PARENT OR RESPONSIBLE ADULT MUST REMAIN IN THE BUILDING WHILE YOUR MINOR CHILD IS IN SESSION.

Grievance Procedure

1. Discuss the situation with the staff member involved in the activity. This contact should be made within five days of the grievance determination. If you are not satisfied after talking with the staff person, contact the Executive Director. This call should be placed within five working days of your meeting with the staff person. The Executive Director will hold a meeting with you within five working days of your contact.
2. After talking with the Executive Director, if the problem remains unresolved, contact the President of the Board of Directors for FAR Conservatory (the appropriate telephone number will be supplied by the Executive Director). Contact with the President of the Board should be made within five working days of your meeting with the Executive Director. The President of the Board will accept a formal written Grievance at this point (if one has not already been submitted) and hold a meeting with the Executive Committee within five working days of your contact. If the President is unavailable, another member of the Executive Committee will be contacted. The President of the Board will contact you with the Executive Committee's decision within five days of their meeting. This decision will be presented to you in writing.
3. Determinations and recommendations made by the Executive Committee are submitted to the full Board of Directors of FAR for approval, and are final.
4. If the issue is still unresolved, it is recommended that you contact the following advocacy agencies:

The ARC of Oakland County
1641 W. Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084
(248) 816-1900

Michigan Protection
Advocacy Services
29200 Vassar
Livonia, MI 48152
(248) 473-2900

Registration Info

Admission is open to any child, adolescent or adult with a physical, mental and/or emotional impairment, regardless of age, race, color, sex, religion or national origin. Please note that our staff is not trained to physically handle a student. For this reason we expect each student to have a responsible adult in the building if he/she is under 18 years of age or at the therapist's/instructor's request.

Students can register by mail or in person at the FAR office PRIOR to the first class. If a student is starting a private session, please call the FAR office to discuss the instructor, day and time that can be scheduled. **NO STUDENT MAY START A CLASS OR PROGRAM WITHOUT REGISTERING.**

A student is considered registered when:

- An enrollment form and participant code of conduct (in center of catalog) is filled out AND SIGNED (once per year.)
- The \$50 yearly Assessment and Evaluation fee is paid (once per year per family.)
- A registration form (in center of catalog) is filled out AND SIGNED indicating which semester(s) you are registering for. Payment for each semester is due before that particular semester begins.
- The ENTIRE registration fee is paid (if this presents a difficulty, please call the office to arrange other terms).
- The \$15 materials fee for art classes is paid.

FAQs

1. What can I expect from FAR therapies?

The therapy offered at FAR has many benefits, positively impacting student communication, cognitive ability, motor and social skills. Therapy can increase self-awareness, improve social skills, and foster self-esteem.

2. How long are the sessions? How often?

Private therapy sessions at FAR are once a week for ½ hour, although exceptions are made in some instances. Group activities are normally 45 minutes to an hour weekly. Tutoring is one hour, once a week; more often if requested.

3. Why do I need to stay in the building while my child is with the therapist?

We need you to be in the building during your child's session because the therapist may need the responsible party to interpret the student's needs or assist with behaviors. Our therapists may not intervene physically with any child. On occasion, a child may suddenly become ill or become violent. If your child is in a group session and another child needs the therapist's assistance you may be asked to remove your student. We do not have a nurse in the building and our insurance insists that we strictly enforce this policy.

4. May I go into the classroom with my child?

No. The therapist and your child are building a relationship. It is our goal to foster the therapeutic process and we have found that the presence of a parent or siblings often interferes with the therapeutic process. There may be times when the therapist invites you to join in, but for the most part our students do better on their own.

5. The semester has already begun, may I still join?

While we have structured our semesters to be similar to an academic school year, we realize that this may not be appropriate for all situations. Therefore, we try to be very flexible when enrolling students.

6. What if I pay for the entire semester and my child is unable or unwilling to continue?

Nothing is written in stone at FAR. We try to be accommodating. However, we suggest you encourage your child to continue because often it takes time for a student to become acclimated to the therapy. No refunds will be given unless the FAR office is contacted.

7. May I reschedule my session if my child is unable to attend?

For private therapy, the time of your session has been set with your therapist whose schedule may not allow much flexibility. FAR must pay for the therapist's time regardless. Therefore, our policy is to allow one make-up session per semester. Group activities will not be made up unless a class was cancelled because of the therapist or a building or weather-related issue. If the therapist cancels the session and the student and therapist are unable to schedule a time for make up, a credit will be issued to the student.

8. Our budget is tight—may I make payments for the charges?

FAR understands the strain on many families' budgets. If you cannot pay for the semester in advance as required, you may pay in two increments. Contact the FAR office if you need a different accommodation. Check with us to see if you qualify for a scholarship. See the application at the center of the catalog.

9. Only two students registered for the group class my child wants to take. Will the class be cancelled?

Group classes will be cancelled if fewer than three students register. FAR makes every effort to fill classes and create groups when there is interest. Occasionally the Executive Director will approve a group class with only two students in an effort to establish a new program. You will be contacted by the office to discuss possible options in the event a class does not meet its minimum enrollment.

10. What is a "therapeutic timed" session?

Private therapy sessions are scheduled for a "therapeutic half hour" or a "therapeutic hour" session. The therapist will work with the student directly for all but five minutes of the scheduled session. The remaining time is used to discuss progress and any challenges or problems with the student's parent or caregiver.

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Tuition Information

Payment is expected in full at registration. In some instances, arrangements can be made to pay in two installments. FAR accepts cash, checks, Visa and Mastercard.

Tuition

Figure Skating:	Fall (17 sessions)	\$323
	Winter (13 sessions)	\$247
JV Hockey and Speedskating:	Fall (17 sessions)	\$323
	Winter (13 sessions)	\$247
Varsity Hockey: (25 sessions)		\$475

Fees

Materials Fee	\$15
Annual Assessment and Evaluation Fee.....	\$50

FALL 2011

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Private Therapy 1/2 Hour \$26 Per Session	15 Sessions \$390	18 Sessions \$468	18 Sessions \$468	18 Sessions \$468	17 Sessions \$442	18 Sessions \$468
Private Therapy 1 Hour \$47 Per Session	15 Sessions \$705	18 Sessions \$846	18 Sessions \$846	18 Sessions \$846	17 Sessions \$799	18 Sessions \$846
Group \$19 Per Session	15 Sessions \$285	18 Sessions \$342	18 Sessions \$342	18 Sessions \$342	17 Sessions \$323	18 Sessions \$342
Tutoring \$42 Per Session	15 Sessions \$630	18 Sessions \$756	18 Sessions \$756	18 Sessions \$756	17 Sessions \$714	18 Sessions \$756

WINTER 2012

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Private Therapy 1/2 Hour \$26 Per Session	14 Sessions \$364	16 Sessions \$416	16 Sessions \$416	16 Sessions \$416	16 Sessions \$416	16 Sessions \$416
Private Therapy 1 Hour \$47 Per Session	14 Sessions \$658	16 Sessions \$752	16 Sessions \$752	16 Sessions \$752	16 Sessions \$752	16 Sessions \$752
Group \$19 Per Session	14 Sessions \$266	16 Sessions \$304	16 Sessions \$304	16 Sessions \$304	16 Sessions \$304	16 Sessions \$304
Tutoring \$42 Per 1 Hour Session	14 Sessions \$588	16 Sessions \$672	16 Sessions \$672	16 Sessions \$672	16 Sessions \$672	16 Sessions \$672

SUMMER 2012

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Private Therapy 1/2 Hour \$26 Per Session	6 Sessions \$156	6 Sessions \$156	5 Sessions \$130	6 Sessions \$156	0 Sessions \$0	7 Sessions \$182
Private Therapy 1 Hour \$47 Per Session	6 Sessions \$282	6 Sessions \$282	5 Sessions \$235	6 Sessions \$282	0 Sessions \$0	7 Sessions \$329
Group \$19 Per Session	6 Sessions \$114	6 Sessions \$114	5 Sessions \$95	6 Sessions \$114	0 Sessions \$0	7 Sessions \$133
Tutoring \$42 Per Session	6 Sessions \$252	6 Sessions \$252	5 Sessions \$210	6 Sessions \$252	0 Sessions \$0	7 Sessions \$294