

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange is a program of Judson Center and is funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. To learn more about issues impacting youth, visit our website at www.mare.org and click on the For Youth tab.



Four ways to get set for school

The summer is winding down and the first day of school is just around the corner. Here are just a few tips to get into the back-to-school mood!

Pick out your favorite outfit

Whether you've got new back-to-school clothes or not, you can select your favorite look and get it clean and ready to wear. Maybe you're the casual shorts and t-shirt type or maybe you prefer to dress your best – whatever your style, just be you!

Get geared up

It's always fun to start the school year with some fresh, new supplies. If you don't have a way to get new school supplies, never fear! Just ask your foster care or adoption worker; lots of organizations provide backpacks and school supplies for youth in foster

care, and your worker can help get some for you.

Warm up your brain

Just like athletes who work out to be in tip-top shape for their sport, you can get your brain "warmed up" for school. Check out a few books from the library to read or review some math problems online.

Get organized

Start this school year out right by getting organized. Maybe keep a notebook where you can write all upcoming assignments, add a check mark when completed and then check them again when you turned them in. Keeping track of your work is one of the best ways to keep those grades up! Ask an adult to help you set up an organizational system if you aren't sure how to do it.

Did you know ... topics for you!

Youth Today is an independent newspaper that reports on issues important to youth and advocates for youth across the country.

Covered topics include child welfare, foster care, mental health and the justice system. Read and learn more at youthtoday.org.

Free workouts for teens ages 15-18

Summer might be winding down, but teens can still work out for

free at any Planet Fitness location through Sept. 1.

The fitness franchise's Teen Summer Challenge is for youth ages 15-18. Teens can sign up at any location, but they must use the same location for their workouts.

Teens under 18 will need to bring an adult with them to sign up. For more information, visit www.planetfitness.com/TeenSummerChallenge.

ofit. Your Youth, Your Families, Your Communities. Supp

YOUTH TODAY

CATEGORIES - TOPICS - VIDEOS - BUREAUS - OST HUB - MAGA

OPINION
Using Strengths Framework Helps Foster Youth Achieve Their Higher Education Goals

OPINION
Youth Homelessness Must Be Made Visible Through Systems Collaboration



Facts About Youth Advisory Board (YAB)

Participants: Anyone who is or has been in foster care.

Meetings: Held quarterly at locations throughout Michigan.

How to attend: If you are in foster care, contact your worker. If you are a former foster care youth, contact Jennifer Brooks at 734-528-2061 or Jennifer_brooks@judsoncenter.org.

Get involved in your Youth Advisory Board



Dayjah and Shantoria had a day of fun at the recent Youth Advisory Board Meeting at Focal Point Studio of Photography.

They learned about interviewing techniques and other job skills for teens from Sarah Dickey, Focal Point's lead photographer.

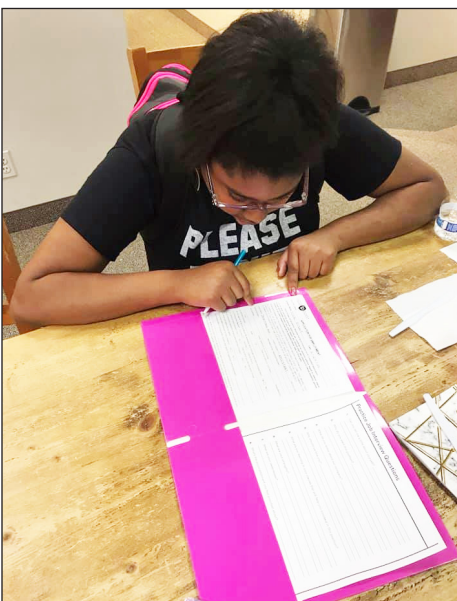
As usual, MARE's Recruitment Specialist Jessica Thompson and Youth Specialist Jennifer Brooks helped facilitate the meeting.

YAB meetings are designed to share information from

individuals who are or who have been in foster care so MARE can educate adoption workers and officials about the concerns of children in care.

If you are interested in participating in YAB and want to attend a future meeting, make sure you contact your worker.

Youth participating in the YAB meetings have been able to enjoy a fun lunch and receive prizes for participation.



A word puzzle about school

See if you can figure out these things associated with school.

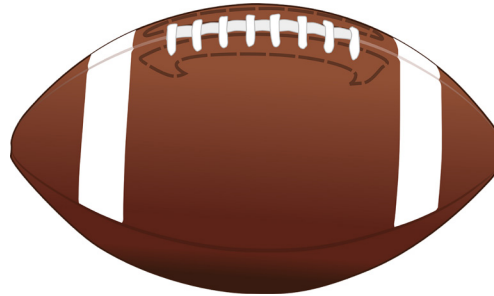
For clues and answers, turn to page 4.

Number 1



1. _____

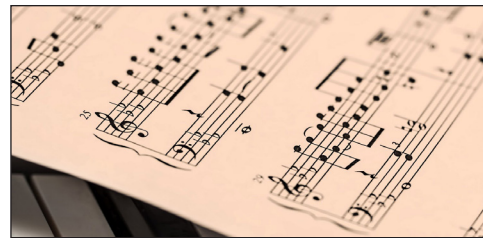
Number 2



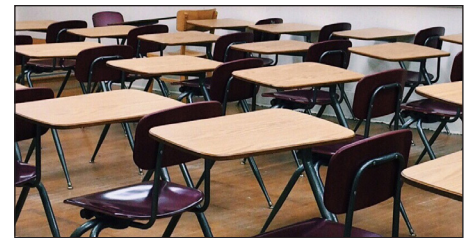
2. _____



Number 3



3. _____ c _____

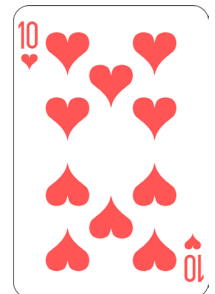


Number 4



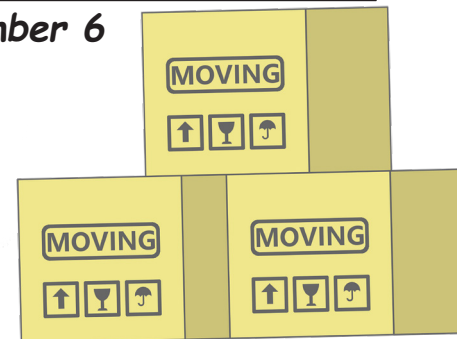
4. _____

Number 5



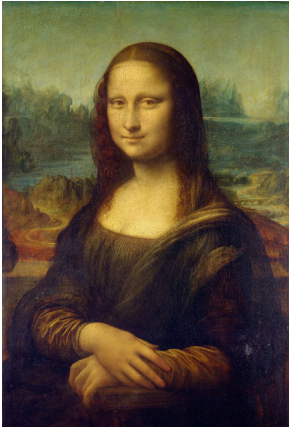
5. _____

Number 6



6. B _____

Bonus round of things associated with school



Answer

Art class

Clues

1. Another word for instructor.
2. Often happen on Friday nights and Saturdays.
3. Second word rhymes with glass.
4. Bring it or buy it at school.
5. First word rhymes with "resort."
6. The opposite of front and what you do before moving.

Answers

1. Teacher
2. Football games
3. Music class
4. Lunch
5. Report card
6. Backpack



MARE Meet & Greets are on the horizon

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange has several upcoming Meet & Greets.

These are fun events where you can interact with prospective adoptive parents. Activities include

games and arts and crafts.

If you want to attend one of these events – which usually occur on Saturday – make sure to contact your worker, who will let us know about your interest.

YOUTH RESOURCES

Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative - MYOI is a partnership between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, the Oakland/Livingston Human Services Agency and many other local community partners. MYOI's goal is to ensure that young people in foster care have successful outcomes in housing, education, employment, community engagement and health.

(michigan.gov/FYIT > MYOI)



Youth in Transition - MDHHS website geared towards older youth who are experiencing foster care. It's a comprehensive, youth-oriented site with advice, interactive features, a useful glossary of foster care terms, and information on a variety of issues important to all youth who've experienced foster care. The site provides links on how to develop supports, find services, get answers to important questions and just keep you posted on what's new. (www.michigan.gov/FYIT)