

Fractured Fairy Tales and I Tube part of C360 Summer

What: Summer Camps at Creative 360

Where: Creative 360 (formerly Creative Spirit Center) at 1517 Bayliss in Midland.

When: July and August

Cost: Varied

For more information: Call (989) 837-1885 or visit www.becreative360.org

Midland -- Children who dream of running away and joining the circus have an opportunity to do just so this summer at Creative 360 (formerly Creative Spirit Center), 1517 Bayliss.

More than a dozen summer camps are offered in July and August, including one titled “Cirque du Science: Low Down on the Big Top” and another called “Cirque du Science: Carnival Curiosities.”

“We chose the circus theme because it sounds like fun, and we thought the concept would convey the eclectic nature of the subjects we are offering,” says Cathie Stewart, a spokesperson for the Meta4 organization which is teaching the summer camps at Creative 360.

Indeed. Some of the other outings are “Fractured Fairy Tales,” “Pigs DO Fly: Juggling 101,” “Shakespearean Spoofery: Romeo and . . . What’s Her Name,” “Project Funway,” “Will the Comedians Please STAND UP,” “We Don’t Need Lines, Anyway!” and “I Tube, YouTube, We All Tube” -- their titles staying true to their content.

Most of the camps run a week, Monday through Friday, with the Shakespearean one two weeks, and are open to youth ages 7 to 12, or ages 13 and up. Tuition ranges from \$65 to \$180.

Meta4, Stewart says, was formed in 2009 and is a non-profit educational organization seeking to link the area’s cultural resources to school children both inside and outside the classroom. Its programs encompass science, math, visual art and culture.

She is most excited about the two “Cirque du Science” offerings, open to ages 8-12, “because they demonstrate the fascinating and unexpected ways that science is applied to the fanciful world of the circus.”

“Carnival Curiosities” will deal with carnival rides and midways, fire eaters, fun houses and acrobats while “Low Down” will probe the chemistry behind magical illusions, popcorn, cotton candy, special effects, fireworks and human cannonballs. Both culminate in a show for friends and family.

Stewart also likes the idea behind “Shakespearean Spoofery,” for ages 11 and up, “because letting your imagination go wild while exploring the classics is an exciting opportunity not afforded to most students.”

In its two weeks, participants will add comedy to the tragedy and cover all aspects of a production, including promoting a show and designing and producing a playbill.

The instructors are a varied lot, with degrees in science education and biology, credits in directing children’s theater and professional stand-up comedy, and teaching in Saginaw, Midland and New Lothrop schools.

Colleen Reed, program coordinator at Creative 360, is enthusiastic about the collaboration between Meta4 and Creative 360.

“I love their excitement, energy and enthusiasm,” says Reed of the new group. “This group is off the charts! As soon as they walk in the door, you are swept up into the whirlwind of their creative, can-do energy. You won’t know what hit you at first, but you’ll be glad it did.”

Creative 360 also hosts a “Midland High School Drama Camp.” Midland High School drama students will lead first- through fifth-grade students in four daylong sessions on acting, set construction, makeup, stage combat and costume design -- culminating in a show. Its cost is \$225.

For a brochure on the summer camp offerings, call 989-837-1885, or go on line at www.becreative360.org for a downloadable version. Scholarships for children and youth are available through the Susie Giering Scholarship Fund.

About Creative 360:

Creative 360, (formerly Creative Spirit Center), is a not-for-profit community arts and wellness organization founded in 1994. The Center’s mission is to create an environment for people of all ages to experience the creative process through ongoing classes, art exhibits, events, concerts, speakers and outreach programs; and its goal is to enhance the development of physical, mental and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities. Visit www.becreative360.org for more information about the offerings at Creative 360, or call (989) 837-1885 to request a copy of the current schedule.

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