

**Positive behavior intervention programs:**

S.P.E.A.K. staff follows the positive behavior intervention programs provided through the I.E.P. Individual support can be provided when necessary, in collaboration with the student’s school district.

...Bowl !



Ready, get set...



Kennywood



**Transportation:**

S.P.E.A.K. is neither funded nor authorized to provide transportation. If the student qualifies for an extended school year program, the school district is responsible for transportation to the program. Please contact your school district to make the necessary arrangements.



“Autism Speaks” is not S.P.E.A.K.

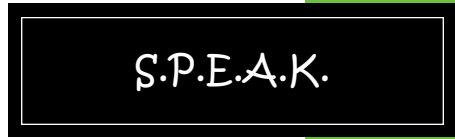
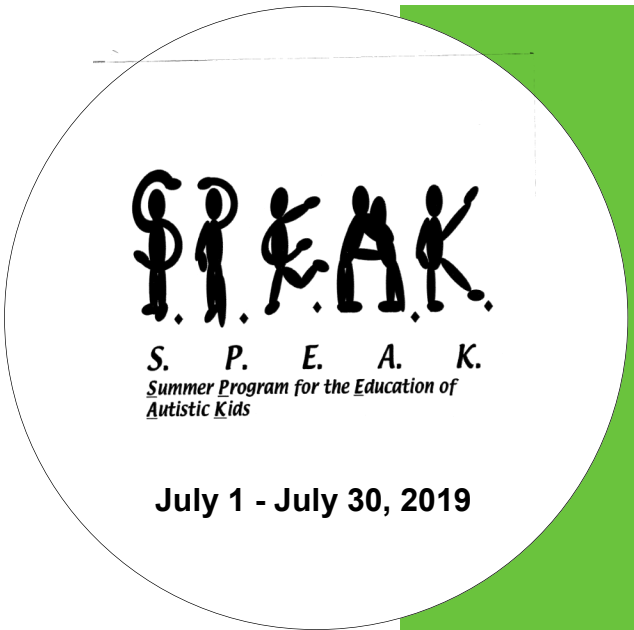
The Autism Society of Pittsburgh founded S.P.E.A.K. forty-two years ago to reduce summertime learning regression, and today provides up to 90 area autistic children each year with community-based education and recreation.

Our S.P.E.A.K. program is in no way associated with the relatively new national organization that calls itself “Autism Speaks”. It is unfortunate that “Speak” is in their name.

S.P.E.A.K. is conducted at  
Steel Valley High School  
3113 Main Street  
Munhall, PA 15120

Jeanine Gevaudan, Program Director  
Michele Waibel, Program Coordinator

Contact [mwaibel@autismsocietypgh.org](mailto:mwaibel@autismsocietypgh.org) with questions or to apply



A Program of:



4371 Northern Pike  
Monroeville, PA 15146

412-856-7223

# S.P.E.A.K

**S.P.E.A.K.** is an Extended School Year (ESY), and summer recreation program for students ages 5 to 21. Our students have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The Autism Society of Pittsburgh founded and has operated the program since 1974.

The purpose of **S.P.E.A.K.** is to provide education and social interaction instruction and training in accordance with their IEPs, thus preventing or reducing summertime regression and ensuring students' smooth transition into the upcoming school year.

**S.P.E.A.K.** employs an on-site director and a highly qualified professional support team. Each classroom consists of a certified lead teacher, assistant teacher, and classroom aide.

The goals of the program are to:

- Develop and maintain community awareness and interaction through structured community-based instruction (CBI) and experiences.
- Develop and maintain recreation and leisure skills.
- Develop and strengthen behavioral and social skills and interactions.
- Provide art and music enrichment activities.
- Provide language experiences that correlate with classroom instruction.
- Provide classroom instruction based on individual IEP education and transition objectives.
- Monitor progress on individual ESY goals and community-based activities through data collection, and comprehensive reporting to the families and the students' school districts.

- The **S.P.E.A.K.** site is centrally located for all the districts we serve and is only 10 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh. Steel Valley High School's location enhances the student's ability to participate in a multitude of community-based experiences within walking distance of the school. The shopping district and restaurants at the Waterfront are easily accessible and provide various opportunities for students to learn through community-based instruction and experiences.
- The school includes ample classrooms, designated areas for art, music and computer education, gymnasium, and cafeteria. An indoor pool is available as well as a number of sports fields surrounding the school complex.

## Activities:

The activities in which the children participate are age and ability appropriate. These activities include:

- Basic classroom education
- Recreation and games
- Community-based outings
- Speech therapy
- Swimming
- Music therapy, dance, yoga
- Adapted physical education
- Arts and crafts
- Field trips



## Volunteers

**S.P.E.A.K.** utilizes school-age volunteers from local schools to promote peer interaction and to assist in community-based experiences. These volunteers serve as role models for the students and allow also for the development of friendships.

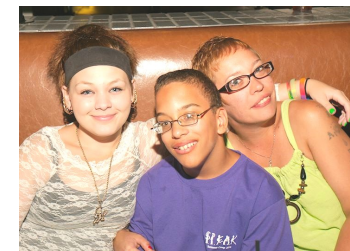
## Enrollment

Parents must complete an application packet. All forms must be completed in their entirety, signed and returned by the due date. Incomplete forms will delay the enrollment process. For an application packet, call the Autism Society of Pittsburgh office: 412-856-7223.

## Extended School Year Services:

**S.P.E.A.K.** provides extended school year services for children as determined by the student's Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.) team. Progress towards each individual's goals is monitored through data collection. Data and reports are forwarded to students' school districts and parents at the conclusion of the program. The criteria for qualification for extended school year services and eligibility should be discussed at the I.E.P. conference.

Even though the I.E.P. team determines that the extended school year program will be **S.P.E.A.K.**, parents must still complete the enrollment process. The **S.P.E.A.K.** program will request from the school district a copy of the child's IEP, which will describe the current ESY goals and objectives.



Family Day