



## Deron's Young Inventors will Focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics This Summer

**Deron I—Union** Full S.T.E.A.M. ahead! Deron's Union campus will be exploring **Science**, **Technology**, **Engineering**, **Arts** and **Math** in their Extended School Year (ESY) program using the foundational pillars of this project-based learning approach, which creates, presents, responds, and connects.

Our students will learn about the history of certain inventions and inventors. As the weeks progress, they will become scientists who will observe, explore, and play in their own way by using their own instincts to discover and learn.

Each week our students will be faced with a S.T.E.A.M. challenge, and within a small group they will create their own lab to build their structures and/or problem-solve solutions. One example will be an egg drop challenge where the groups will have to devise a protective packaging that will hold a raw egg and protect it from breaking when it is dropped from a considerable distance.

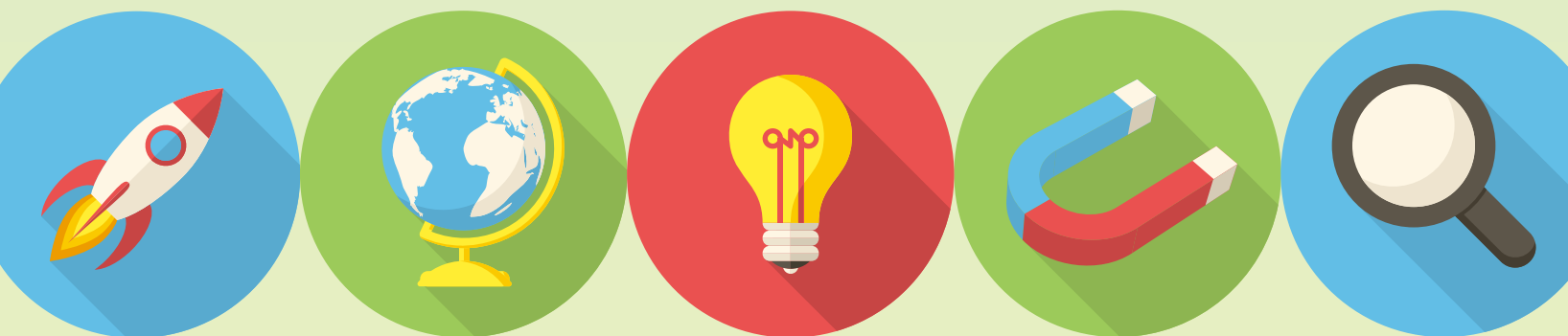
We will continue to study our regular academics during the summer too while our students explore their discoveries using science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

The summer will end with a S.T.E.A.M. Showdown, where the students will present their classes' brainstorming inventions. Parents, families, and friends will be invited to this presentation and share in the excitement of this summer's program.

**Deron II—Montclair** The ESY theme at Deron's Montclair campus is Inventions and Inventors Throughout the Decades. Each class will research and learn what was invented and by whom in the decade they are assigned. Each area of S.T.E.M. (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**athematics) will be incorporated, as well as Language Arts and Social Studies, as the students delve into the importance, need, and impact inventions have had on their lives. The students will be inventors and present their inventions to the other classes at the end of the ESY program.

Each class will contribute to the Invention Timeline that will be displayed in the building. Trips to the Edison Museum and Liberty Science Center are planned for some hands-on activities. A variety of library books including *100 Inventions That Made History*, *Mistakes That Worked*, *Toys! Amazing Stories Behind Some Great Inventions*, and a collection of the New York Times best-selling series of *Who Was* will be available for each class to enjoy. On Friday Movie Days, science movies including *Hugo* and *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* will inspire the students to tinker and create with the understanding that no one gets it right on the first try—being an inventor is all about not giving up which is a great message and important life skill for all!

Swimming twice a week, woodshop, music and the continuation of our Structured Learning Experience (SLE) work program will also be a part of our engaging summer curriculum!



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1140 Commerce Avenue  
Union, New Jersey 07083

## Deron's New Preschool Opens July 2

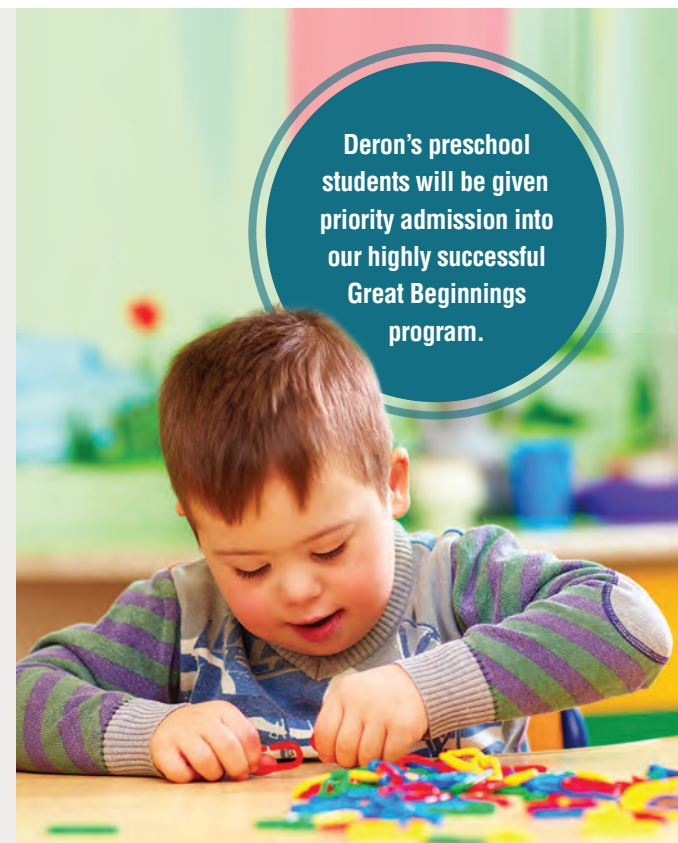
**Deron I—Union** It is with great pleasure that Deron announces the Union campus is extending its services to meet the needs of younger students with our first preschool class for ages 3 to 5!

**Full-day preschool** at Deron will uphold the same standard of excellence to meet the needs of our youngest students. Our program utilizes and offers:

- **A state-approved, research-based curriculum** that inspires creativity and fosters social, emotional, and language development
- Using the **Verbal Behavior Milestones and Assessment Placement Program** (VB-MAPP), students learn to build on their independence
- Exposure to the **arts, music, and movement**, and age-appropriate **technologies** delivered within the classroom
- Opportunities for students to use our state-of-the-art **Sensory Room** for therapy and recreational use

Our team consists of **certified Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapists; Board-Certified Behavior Analysts;** and **seasoned teachers.** Using collaborative service delivery ensures students are challenged and working to reach their greatest potential.

**To reserve a spot in our preschool class, please call Lori Alter, Director of the Union campus, at 908-206-0444. Space is limited.**



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**DERON**  
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Serving Special Education  
Students for 50 Years

# Great EXTRAORDINARY STUDENTS LIMITLESS POTENTIAL Expectations



## DERON BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Deron was proud to participate in the 2018 conference of the Alliance of Private Special Education Schools of North Jersey, which is an alliance of more than 30 state-approved private special education schools in New Jersey who are committed to great outcomes.

The theme was Advocacy in Action: Accessing Effective Services for Students with Disabilities. The half-day conference drew roughly 250 parents, educators, and advocates. It included an information fair featuring service providers, agencies, and organizations serving children and teens with disabilities. The Alliance also sponsors advocacy workshops. Visit online: <https://specialeducationalalliancenj.org/conferences-and-events/>

## Deron Wins Again at the Prudential Center

**Deron II—Montclair**

This is the fourth year students from Deron's BRIDGE program as well as selected graduates were invited to participate in an educational job-shadowing program at Newark Prudential Center, home to the New Jersey Devils. Our students gain a valuable real-life work experience as well as learning how to be good employees.

Upon arrival our students were greeted by the friendly guest relations staff and given official New Jersey Devils T-shirts and staff jackets to wear. Our students attended a staff meeting, where the details of the evening were reviewed. This year "The News for the Night" pregame newsletter featured our students, and they were thrilled! The students were paired with a Prudential employee to shadow, and their infectious excitement got our students pumped up and ready to work.

As the entrance doors opened and the fans came pouring in, our students scanned the fans' tickets. Several students easily ushered

in groups of 10 or more fans with the professionalism and ease of a Prudential Center employee. After seeing how well our students were handling the crowd, the Prudential Center employees stepped back and allowed our students to work independently. Another group of students at the entrance were assigned to getting the crowd excited with the famous cheer "Let's go Devils!" The excitement level was at an all-time high.

As the fans worked their way through the arena, they were greeted by another group of our students, who ushered them safely to their seats. At times it got very hectic; however, our students again remained poised and professional.

The Prudential Center guest relations department continues to express how honored they are to host our students and how this event has become a highlight of their year. Our partnership with the New Jersey Devils at the Prudential Center is an example of how Deron is always searching for opportunities for our students to grow and learn how to live an independent life.



JUNE  
6

**Deron I–Union**  
Open House  
10 A.M.–Noon

JUNE  
8

**Deron I–Union**  
Field Day

JUNE  
13

**Deron I–Union**  
Awards Assembly

JUNE  
20

**Deron I–Union**  
Graduation

JULY  
2

**Deron I–Union**  
Extended School Year  
program (ESY) begins

JUNE  
1

**Deron–Montclair & Union**  
Prom

JUNE  
6

**Deron II–Montclair**  
Music Ascension  
Assembly

JUNE  
7

**Deron II–Montclair**  
Open House  
10 A.M.–Noon

JUNE  
8

**Deron II–Montclair**  
Spring Concert

JUNE  
14

**Deron II–Montclair**  
Spoken Word

JUNE  
18

**Deron II–Montclair**  
Spelling Bee



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Deron II–Montclair

Kathy is a warm and nurturing social worker who has been a member of the Deron team for 16 years. By developing a trusting rapport with our students, she is committed to going above and beyond. Her ability to balance advocating for the needs of our students and being very knowledgeable about Deron’s programs enables our staff to nurture each individual student’s needs in order for them to reach their potential.

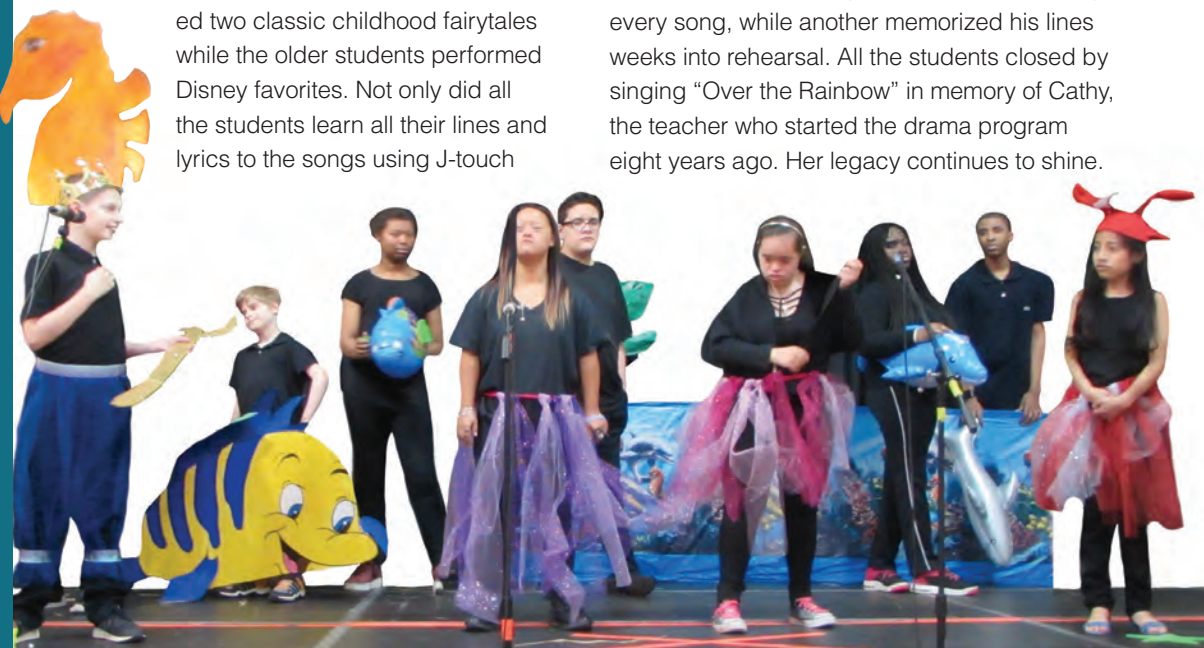
An exceptional team player, Kathy is respected by her peers for her tireless dedication and constant follow-through regarding our students’ progress. Kathy has also been the recipient of the Ruth Newman Award. This award honors an individual from each of the The Council of Private Schools for Children with Special Need’s schools. These honorees exemplify Mrs. Newman’s spirit, integrity, dedication, and commitment in serving the needs of special education students.

Kathy is a fine example of the excellence and dedication found at Deron.

## Dreams Do Come True For Deron’s Drama Club

**Deron I–Union** The Drama Club rehearsed the entire year for its spectacular performance on May 9. The show opened with the cast singing “Be Our Guest.” The younger students presented two classic childhood fairytales while the older students performed Disney favorites. Not only did all the students learn all their lines and lyrics to the songs using J-touch

technology, but they also made 95 percent of the props themselves. As a team, they helped each other if one of them forgot their lines. Their enthusiasm was contagious. One student sang every song, while another memorized his lines weeks into rehearsal. All the students closed by singing “Over the Rainbow” in memory of Cathy, the teacher who started the drama program eight years ago. Her legacy continues to shine.



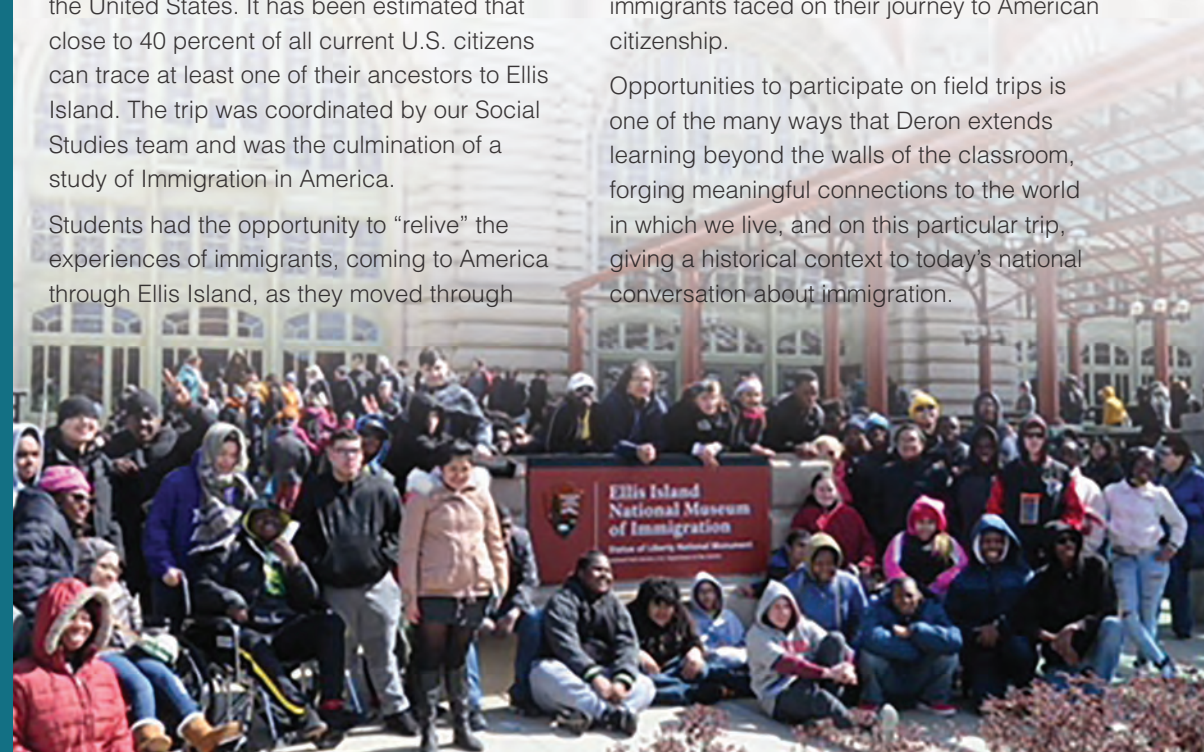
## Ellis Island Trip: Learning Beyond the Classroom

**Deron II–Montclair** More than 100 students and staff members from the Montclair campus visited Ellis Island, the United States’ busiest immigrant inspection station for over 60 years and the gateway for millions of Americans to the United States. It has been estimated that close to 40 percent of all current U.S. citizens can trace at least one of their ancestors to Ellis Island. The trip was coordinated by our Social Studies team and was the culmination of a study of Immigration in America.

Students had the opportunity to “re-live” the experiences of immigrants, coming to America through Ellis Island, as they moved through

the different receiving rooms. As students explored the artifacts in Ellis Island’s Museum of Immigration, they completed a teacher-designed “scavenger hunt” to deepen their understanding of the many hardships immigrants faced on their journey to American citizenship.

Opportunities to participate on field trips is one of the many ways that Deron extends learning beyond the walls of the classroom, forging meaningful connections to the world in which we live, and on this particular trip, giving a historical context to today’s national conversation about immigration.



## Students Exhibit Their Talent at the Montclair Public Library

**Deron II–Montclair** The 2018 Art Show at the Montclair Public Library was comprised of student work from Deron II’s art and woodworking classes. This exhibit showcased the work of 66 young artists across multiple grade levels. Students explored a variety of materials and processes. They acquired a wide variety of skills while learning about artists, style diversities, and methodologies.

Deron’s art programs encourage independence, giving students the opportunity to generate or modify goals and develop their own variations of class projects.

In this year’s show, Deron’s art students focused on self-expression through a variety of self-crafted, multi media drawings and paintings. Their work showcased everything from space galaxies to urban landscapes or flowers to mythological creatures. The woodworking students learned how to use hand tools and machinery, as well as learning about vinyl application and craftsmanship.

At the opening exhibition, two local Montclair artists, Mr. Miles Cohn and Ms. Kristen Zachares, spoke. Mr. Cohn’s work can be seen at Kean University and Arts Unbound, while Ms. Zachares is a jewelry designer and runs an online business. Both artists are on the autism spectrum.



### A DERON STUDENT’S JOURNEY —JONATHAN

Jonathan is being highlighted due to his success in obtaining outside work positions. As a BRIDGE student he has participated in community-based trips on a weekly basis. These trips helped in developing the skills needed for him to apply for benefits and jobs.

Jonathan’s journey started with a variety of Structured Learning Experiences, with each job experience serving as a building block for future job opportunities. Jonathan’s first paying weekend job resulted from his Deron experience at Victor’s Chateau, a banquet hall.

He is currently employed part-time at Mountainside Hospital, where he interacts with the staff and patients. With the help of his job coach, he applied for this position at the hospital and got it! Jonathan’s work ethic is truly admirable and has contributed to his success. His advice to his fellow students is to work hard and be your own advocate.

He is most proud of making a salary and contributing to the household bills, however he does enjoy having fun too by attending sporting events. His enthusiasm and potential are unlimited. Way to go, Jonathan!

## Open Houses

**Montclair**  
Wednesday, July 11  
Tuesday, Aug. 7  
10 A.M.–Noon

**Union**  
Tuesday, July 10  
Wednesday, Aug. 8  
10 A.M.–Noon



## Deron Wows the Audience at The Bergen Performing Arts Center

**Deron–Montclair & Union** On March 4, The Deron School had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the second annual *Voices in Harmony* performance at the Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood, New Jersey. This was a musical celebration of student performances from 16 private schools for students with disabilities. The celebration was sponsored by Bergen PAC, ASAH (a not-for-profit organization of 150 private schools and agencies in New Jersey that provides highly specialized services to more than 11,000 children and young adults with disabilities), the Alliance of Special Education Schools in New Jersey (an alliance of more than 30 state-approved private special education schools in northern and central New Jersey dedicated to helping parents and educators better understand and access appropriate program options in special education), and the William T. Morris Foundation.

Both Deron I–Union campus and Deron II–Montclair campus gave outstanding performances. Deron I–Union performed “Gotta Try to Keep Your Head Above the Water”, and Deron II–Montclair performed “Cups”, from the movie “Pitch Perfect”.

Our students practiced for months, while doing some music history digging, discovering where the music selections originated. Deron II’s performance showcased the rhythm game, where cups served as accompaniments. This technique has been used extensively for years by music teachers who utilize the Carl Orff method of teaching music.

*Voices in Harmony* was a very rewarding, uplifting learning experience for our Deron students. We look forward to the third annual celebration, which will take place in March 2019!