


DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES
Township of Union Public Schools
M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

TO: Dr. Gerald Benaquista
C: Gretel Pérez, Yolanda Koon, Kim Conti, Bernadette Watson, Diane Cappiello
FROM: Joseph T. Seugling 
RE: Board Agenda
DATE: 2024-02-27

Approve the Unified Champion Schools Field Day and Respect Week campaign to take place within the Township of Union Public Schools as described in the information provided with this proposal.

RECEIVED
3/12/2024

Burnet Middle School / UHS

Unified Champion Schools Grant - Field Day Proposal

Every year schools in our district work closely with Unified Champion School's Grant & The Special Olympics Foundation. For the tenth consecutive year the Board of Education has approved our Unified Champion Schools Grant (formerly Project Unify Grant) allowing us to continue to make strides with our inclusion sports programs and activities. Grants have been provided to Burnet Middle School, Union High School, Kawameeh Middle School and Jefferson School in the past. The past two years we included Battle Hill Elementary School who is in their second year of the grant. Foundational programs have been in progress and after school inclusive teams are beginning in these schools and our goal, ultimately, is to include a Play Unified program or activity in every school in Union Township.

The grant allows the school district to promote inclusion of disabled and non-disabled students through physical education, peer activities, and unified sports. In addition, the grant provides monies necessary for schools to plan and implement programs where students work together to compete and play. The long term goal is for districts to create a lifelong plan in which they can implement teams, practices and coaches that support these Unified Events.

Initially, the Unified Champion School's Grant started with Burnet Middle and during our second year, we expanded our resources, participants, programs, and

schools to include Union High School, Jefferson, Battle Hill and KMS. Many people in our community share a common love for Play Unified Special Olympics. We have after school sports established at BMS and UHS allowing all students to participate in inclusive after school sports programs. As we continue to build our community of parents and students in our schools, we hope to spread the word of inclusion and acceptance throughout the town.

Respect Week Campaign –

Assembly / Extended HR Video

This assembly will be used to kick off our Disabilities Awareness Campaign. This assembly will provide a district made Play Unified Video and information to all students throughout these schools. The purpose is to show the importance of accepting others. It will be used to kick off our spirit week in which we hope to spread awareness and bring the student population closer together.

Spirit Week – May 13th – May 17th

Disabilities Awareness Week

The Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools (UCS) program promotes a socially inclusive school climate where acceptance, respect and human dignity for all students is the norm. A Unified Champion School equitably supports students through an education and sports based strategy powered by engaged youth that increases athletic and leadership opportunities for every student to contribute. In Unified Champion Schools, young people of all abilities can be inclusive leaders and athletes, engaging their entire school community in creating an environment where every student feels challenged, supported and connected.

In an effort to educate more people in our school district, Burnet Middle School is hosting their ninth annual Disabilities Awareness Week. We hope to promote awareness to our student population to help educate them about appropriate attitudes and interactions needed when serving people with disabilities.

Respect Week Schedule

<p>Monday 5/13</p>	<p>MISMATCH DAY- "IT IS OK TO BE DIFFERENT"</p> 
<p>Tuesday 5/14</p>	<p>Sweat Pants Day - "To Step Out of Our Comfort Zone When Accepting Those Different Than Us"</p> 
<p>Wednesday 5/15</p>	<p>Workout Wednesday - Wear Your Workout Clothes To Show We are Working Hard Towards Accepting Students With Disabilities</p> 
<p>Thursday 5/16</p>	<p> Erase Discrimination White & Black Out Day - Let's Show Our Unity</p>
<p>Friday 5/17</p>	<p>Maroon Madness - TEAM WORK Friday</p> <p>"Together Everyone Achieves More"</p> 

Cumulative Unified Sports Field Day– May 19th (Rain Date May 22nd).

Date: May 17th Time- 9:15-1:30

Location: UHS Track & Field

Guest Speakers/Guests:

Union Police Department

Donations:

The Special Olympics is donating T-shirts and a Banner for each School for the event.

Union Police Department – Pizza / Water / Plates / Napkins

UHS Unified - Ice Cream Truck

Student Involvement:

Schraer - BMS

Meixner - UHS

Kohn - UHS

Musarra-UHS

Tennen- KMS

Branco- Battle Hill

Burd - Jefferson

UHS- Tomorrow's Teachers

Unified Sports Field Day

Date: May 19th

Time- 9:30 -1:30

Location: UHS Track & Field

Field Day Schedule

Time	Event
9:20 — 9:40	Set Up teams on field & teachers and students at events
9:40- 10:00	Opening Announcement & Stretch
10:00 — 10:20	Station 1
10:25-10:45	Station 2
10:50 - 11:10	Station 3
11:15- 11:35	Station 4
11:40- 12:00	Station 5
12:05-12:25	Station 6
12:30-12:55	Lunch
12:55-1:30	Water Balloon & Karaoke & Ice Cream Truck

Stations

Station	Event	Location	School Start
Baker - 1	Volleyball	Grass Field	UHS - KOHN
Andrea/ Lindsey - 2	Track = Sprint 25M - Timed 50M - Timed Combined w/ Partners	Visitor Track Side	BMS
Marcy & Dana - 3	Track Javelin - / Shot Put	Home Side on Turf Middle of Field	KMS
Dave & - 4	Soccer	Far End Football Field	Battle Hill
Jerry - 5	Corn Hole (3) & Ping Pong & Pop Up Pong	Close end Football Field	Jefferson
Fio - 6	Bocce Ball (3)	UHS Field by Softball	UHS - Marcy

15 Tables & 10 Chair at Each s Set Up For Food
Karaoke Machine on Main Field

Opening Ceremony

**Athletes In Stands by Unified Teams by
Schools (20/25 per school - one to one ratio of
unified partners)**

Pledge -

National Anthem

Special Olympic Intro - Cumulative Field Day

Ms. Fio & Start of Games

Photo Release

Township of Union Public Schools

Permission to Use Photograph

I grant the right to Special Olympics Play Unified and its representatives and employees to take photographs of my child and their property. I authorize the Township of Union and Special Olympics Project Unify the right to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I agree that the Township of Union may use such photographs of my child with or without my name and for any purpose, including for example; such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.

I have read and understand the above:

Child's Name: _____

Date: _____

Printed name Guardian _____

Signature of Guardian _____



Dear Parents or Guardian,

On Friday May 17th, 2024, we will be hosting our annual Special Olympics' Champion Schools Play Unified Event at UHS. We will be leaving Burnet at 8:45 and walking to Union High School. At UHS, students will be participating in teams to compete in Track & Field Day events. Guest Speakers from the Special Olympic Athletes, The Township of Union Police Department and Play Unified Foundation will be speaking at this event. Lunch will be donated by the local Union Police Department. Water and Gatorade will also be provided for the students throughout the day. Ice Cream will also be served to conclude the event.

This trip is free, everything is being provided by the Special Olympics' Play Unified Grant, UTEA & Union Police Department. This Special Olympics' Field Day is a part of a Disabilities Awareness Spirit Week and will end the week with this huge celebration. Students have been working hard on creating these events and I look forward to seeing the final results. Please send slip in by May 5, 2024 . If I do not receive the slip by this date students will not be attending on this trip.

Student Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

If you have any questions, please contact me at dschraer@twpunionschools.org

Thank You. Ms. Schraer & The Play Unified Team