



 Viking Pals is an assortment of groups of students who have taken an interest in supporting our students in our special needs programs to make positive connections.

Viking Pals started when our current 8<sup>th</sup> graders were in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This grade level started working with our special needs kids at that time.

Although we started small, this group expanded to allow for different grade levels of students to work with various need based programs at different times during the day.

What have our 8<sup>th</sup> graders done over time?

Some 8th graders have met with our Viking Pals since 6th grade during their lunch once a month. During our meeting time there is always an activity or exercise ready for us to engage in.

Thanksgiving bingo

Made trailmix, simulated a donut stand, and colored popcorn for spirit day.

What have our 8<sup>th</sup> graders done over time continued.

Dance and excercise

Arts, crafts, and games ie... Painting

Activities focused on communication. We often discuss with our friends our likes/dislikes over many broad subject areas.

End of the year picnic

• Making Spirit Popcorn!





What have our 7<sup>th</sup> graders done over time?

- How did we start working with mid-valley kids?
  - At lunchtime started playing with them when we go outside.
  - Then we asked Mr. Bleau if we could do more activities with them.
  - Mr. Bleau let us go to PE with the kids a few times at the end of last year.

What did we do during PE with the kids?

Mr. Austin the PE teacher would use us to model activities with the kids. He had two different classes.

At the beginning of class the kids walk around and we would join them and talk with them as they walked.

We did warm ups with them and play chase with them.

What did we do during PE with the kids?

We played kick ball and baseball and ran with them when they ran the bases so they knew where to go.

We tried to encourage them to do things they did not want to do.

During our regular PE classes a few other students were able to join us for fun Fridays.

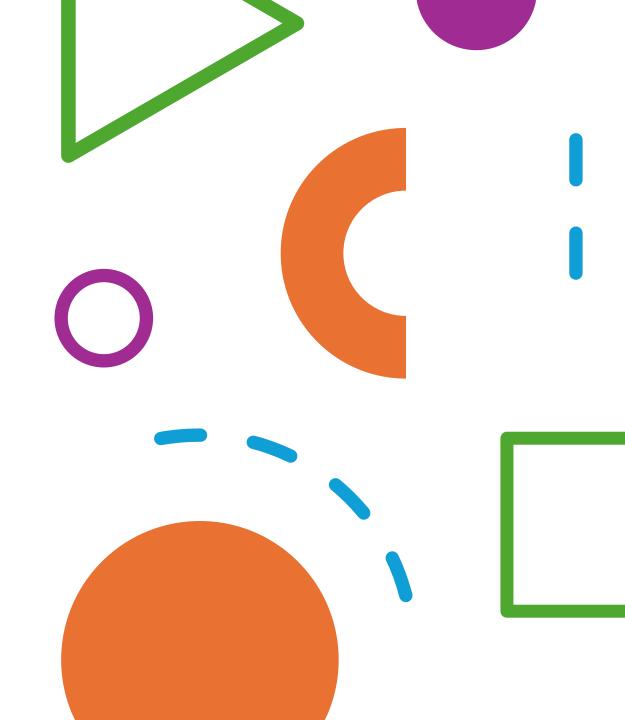






## What are we doing this year?

- We are helping the kids during our study hall time. This just started.
  We have added other kids who were also interested.
  - Reading with the kids.
  - Helping them get ready for lunch.
  - Invited a few of the students to each with our table at lunch time.



What are the 6<sup>th</sup> graders doing?

 Mr. Austin is starting a new group to work with the kids during PE classes just like we did last year.

## like

We have fun at school every day. We want to make sure other kids have fun too.

It feels good to help the kids and the teachers.

It just seems like the right thing to do.

## Summary:

- The kids who talked today were very involved in creating opportunities to have students with special needs have experiences with their general education peers.
- We have other opportunities through our normal structures where students will attend some of our exploratory classes, PE class, performing music classes and other opportunities like clubs and sports.