

Unified Special Olympics: Empowering LPGE Students

Introduction to Unified Special Olympics



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- Unified Special Olympics: A less competitive version of Special Olympics
- LPGE School District's Unified Club established 3 years ago
- No sports physicals required for student athletes
- Promotes inclusion and teamwork among students with and without disabilities



Leadership Team

- Kaylie Waldvogel: New head coach, managing paperwork and logistics
 - Responsibilities include event registration, permissions, fundraising, and promoting unity
- Michelle Halonen & Jenny Ramos: Leading High School Unified Athletes
- Jessica Rosenow: Leading Elementary Unified Athletes



Current Participation

- Elementary: 10 Unified Special Olympics athletes, 5 Unified Partners
- High School: 13 Unified Special Olympics athletes, 5 Unified Partners
- Highest participation since becoming a Unified Club!
- Growing interest and engagement across all grade levels



Financial Overview

- Centralized account balance (start of year): (\$1,608.78)
- Uniform T-shirts purchase: (\$1,050)
- Current balance before fundraiser: (\$558.76)
- Student Activity account: (\$182.80)
- Upcoming concession stand fundraiser: February 4, 2025



Fundraising Success

- Special Olympics MN Raffle Ticket fundraiser
- Goal: (\$500) | Achieved: (\$915)
- (\$5) per ticket, 100% profit for the team
- Potential for annual fundraising opportunity



Team Uniforms and Apparel

- Purchased from Little Rose Custom Creations
- Athlete T-shirts with numbers on the back
- Unified Partner T-shirts without numbers
- Promotes team unity and identity
- Available at:

littlerosecreations.com/onlinestores/2024-lpge-unified-special-olympics



Recent Events: Bowling

- November event at Garden Center Lanes, Alexandria
- Competed against 4 other school districts
- Participation ribbon event
- Many students achieved personal best scores
- Fostered teamwork and sportsmanship



Upcoming Events

- February 2025: Basketball skills and game at Staples-Motley High School
 - Currently gauging interest for participation
- Winter Carnival (unable to attend due to school calendar)
- May 2025: Track and Field at Pillager High School
 - Relay races, long jump, shot put variations



Long-Term Planning: Unified Physical Education

- Proposal for Unified PE class at high school level
 - Special Olympics MN curriculum
 - Benefits for students with Adaptive Physical Education in IEPs
 - Semester or year-long course option
 - Counts towards graduation PE requirements



Long-Term Planning: Lunch Buddies Program

- In development for future school years
- Aims to create a more unified school culture
- Curriculum/program facilitated by Special Olympics MN
- Promotes social interaction and inclusivity



Long-Term Planning: Unified Student Group

- Proposed for fall 2025 at high school level
- Student-led initiatives for inclusion
- Recruit Unified Partners
- Plan fundraisers and awareness events
- Integrate with school activities (homecoming, snow week, etc.)



Future Fundraising: Cool School Polar Plunge

- Proposed for 2025-26 school year
- Special Olympics MN provides portable large water tank
- Minimum (\$50) fundraising per participant
- School pep rally and community involvement
- Potential for significant fundraising and awareness



Impact and Growth

- Increased participation in Unified programs
- Greater awareness of inclusivity in school community
- Development of leadership skills for all students
- Opportunities for students with disabilities to showcase abilities



Conclusion and Next Steps

- Continue to grow participation in Unified Special Olympics
- Implement long-term plans for Unified PE and student groups
- Explore new fundraising opportunities
- Foster a more inclusive and supportive school environment
- Seek ongoing support from school board and community

