



SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

NORM STEWART CLASSIC

The Norm Stewart Classic is a 48 hour straight highschool basketball tournament that bring some of the best schools from not only Missouri, but the country. This year, we were able to have three unified basketball teams compete with two of them kicking off the whole tournament. Thank you to Republic High School, Columbia Parks and Rec, and Moberly High School on showing what inclusion looks like!

HIGHLIGHTS

Francis Howell Central hosted their annual local basketball tournament that kicks off the basketball season for the ST. Louis area. This tournament had 10 teams competing in 3v3, unified 3v3, unified modified, and regulation basketball.

We hosted Unified hangout day at the Training For Life Campus for Tipton High School, Eldon High School, and California High School. The activities ranged from ping-pong and basketball to just dance!

Jennings Senior High School hosted a Play Unified Day on their last day before the holiday break. They had balloon tennis and a giant Connect 4 game and of course some snacks!

We have had many great Unified events in schools over the first part of the school year. Did I miss your event? Let me know what you did so you can be included into our next highlights!

“Diversity is the mix. Inclusion is making the mix work.”

RESOURCES

Want to find more ways to engage your students with inclusion? Check out our Unified Classroom that has lessons on identity, teamwork, empowerment, leadership, appreciation, and so many more! All of the lessons

have different grade levels, unified talks, with objectives and standards! www.generationunified.org/unified-classroom

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

March 2nd is Choose to include day! To celebrate the day we want to fill the state with our Choose to include shirts! Shirts will be \$10 and shipping is covered by SOMO. https://willpromo.com/somo_unified/shop/home. Get your students together and spread the word of Inclusion!



Special Olympics Unified Schools

We are back up and going at SOMO with events all around the state! With these events we are looking for volunteers! If you would like information on events you can volunteer at check out somo.org/volunteer/.

An inclusion revolution is a one day unified event where those with and without intellectual disabilities play together. The main goals are to break down barriers, educate students on the importance of inclusion, and provide a meaningful experience for all participants. These are meant to be whole school engagements and even surrounding schools with their special education departments.

Young Athlete Programs (YAP's) are a great way to work with younger schools in your district. YAP is for those 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities where we play games to work on motor and social skills, as well as introduce them to our sports that we offer year-round. We meet once a week and this can be done either during the school day, or after school. For more information or if you are interested please feel free to reach out to me, we are excited to help you get things started!

Unified Esports is starting for the Spring Semester. This will be 3v3 unified Rocket League against some teams across the country. Rocket League is a free to play game and people can play on any platform. If you are interested please reach out to me.

NATIONAL BANNER PROGRAM

A Special Olympics Unified Champion School has an inclusive school climate and exudes a sense of collaboration, engagement and respect for all members of the student body and staff. A Unified Champion School receiving national banner recognition is one that has demonstrated commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 national standards of excellence. These standards were developed by a national panel of leaders from Special Olympics and the education community.

The primary activities within these standards include: [Special Olympics Unified Sports®](#) (where students with and without disabilities train and compete as teammates), Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole-School Engagement. Banner Unified Champion Schools should also be able to demonstrate they are self-sustainable or have a plan in place to sustain these activities into the future.

SCHOOL VISITS

I have been traveling the state visiting different schools and learning about all of the great things you are doing to promote inclusion. My goal is to provide you more information on the three standards and what more you can do to be on pace to achieve national banner status. If you would like to meet please reach out to me at mayfield@somo.org or 314-477-4223 so we can start creating an inclusive environment for everyone!

SCHOOL SURVEY

Please take a moment and fill out our survey so we can continue to serve you and your students creating a place where everyone feels welcome! <https://form.jotform.com/213266085825055>

SCHOOL SURVEY

St. Louis Metro Area - contact Jocelyn Diehl (diehl@somo.org) (314)-961-7755

**Special
Olympics**
Missouri



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January 16th STLM Area Basketball Tournament (unified/volunteer)

February 5th Lake St. Louis Plunge (fundraiser)

February 19th Maryland Heights Plunge (fundraiser)

February 19th Regional Basketball (Unified/Volunteer)

March 19th State Basketball (Unified/Volunteer)

Central Area – contact Tim Schuster (schuster@somo.org) (573)-635-1660

January 22nd Central Area Basketball (unified/volunteer)

February 26th Lake of the Ozarks Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

March 5th Rolla Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

March 12th Columbia Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

Kansas City Area - contact Alyssa Cress (cress@ssomo.org) (816)-535-9610

January 22nd KC Area Basketball (unified/volunteer)

January 29th Kansas City Polar Plunge (fundraising/volunteer)

North Area – contact Alyssa Cress (cress@somo.org) (816)-535-9610

February 12th West Regional Basketball (unified/volunteer)

February 12th Chillicothe Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

February 26th St. Joseph Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

March 5th Kirksville Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

Southeast Area – contact Scott Williams (swilliams@somo.org) (573)-339-6733

February 5th Cape Girardeau Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

Southwest Area – contact Jana Fornelli (fornelli@somo.org) (417)-624-5505

January 22nd Southwest Area Basketball (unified/volunteer)

March 5th Springfield Polar Plunge (fundraiser)



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CONTACT INFORMATION

Dillen Mayfield

UCS Coordinator

314-477-4223

mayfield@somo.org

305 Special Olympics Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101