



SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

JULY

INCLUSIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES HIGHLIGHTS

[#SOMO](#) is SO excited to be a part of [MASC - Missouri Association of Student Councils](#) annual leadership conference this week in Fulton. Our three representatives have helped raise \$3,000 with MASC's Buy a Duck for a Buck fundraiser! Huge S/O to Emilee Hamilton, Levi Davis and Cece Meppiel from Odessa High School and Festus High School! [#UnifiedChampionSchools](#) [#InclusionRevolution](#)



“Diversity is being invited to the party.

Inclusion is being asked to dance.” – Verna Myers

RESOURCES

Want to find more ways to engage your students with inclusion? Check out Unified Classroom for easy to implement lessons on identity, teamwork, empowerment, leadership, appreciation, and so many more valuable topics! Lessons are differentiated for all abilities and grade levels and include objectives and standards.

www.generationunified.org/unified-classroom



Special Olympics Unified Schools

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

SOMO is hosting events all around the state, and we are looking for volunteers! If you would like information on events you and your students can volunteer at check out somo.org/volunteer/.

Consider hosting an inclusion revolution. This one day unified event where students with and without intellectual disabilities play together breaks down barriers, educates students on the importance of inclusion, and provides a meaningful experience for all participants. We would love to support you as we work together towards building whole school engagement.

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!

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

Want practical ideas for becoming a more inclusive school? I am looking forward to 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 thomas@somo.org.

**Special
Olympics**
Missouri



Special Olympics
Unified Schools

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

July 9th Southeast/ ST. Louis Metro Area Softball Tournament

August 20th St. Louis Metro Area Tennis Tournament

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

August 9th Bass Pro Shops Fishing Dreams

August 10th Central Area Tennis Tournament

August 11th Central Area Golf Tournament

August 27th Central Area Bocce Tournament

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

July 9th KC/ North Area Softball Tournament

July 16th Creative Movement Dance Clinic

July 21st KC/ North Area Tennis Tournament

July 30th KC/ North Flag Football Area Tournament

August 3rd KC/ North Area Golf Tournament

August 13th KC/ North Area Bocce Tournament

September 16th Fall Golf Clinic

North Area – contact Todd Stutzman (stutzman@somo.org) (816)-233-6232

July 9th KC/ North Area Softball Tournament

July 21st KC/ North Area Tennis Tournament

July 30th KC/ North Flag Football Area Tournament

August 3rd KC/ North Area Golf Tournament

August 13th KC/ North Area Bocce Tournament

**Special
Olympics**
Missouri



Special Olympics
Unified Schools

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

July 9th Southeast/ ST. Louis Metro Area Softball Tournament

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

August 8th SW Area Golf

August 19th Night at the Ballpark at Hammons Field- Pre Game Athlete Parade

Training for Life Campus – contact Susan Shaffer (shaffer@somo.org) (573)-635-1660

August 9th Bass Pro Shops Fishing Dreams

July 16th Coaches Recognition

MESSAGE FROM ME

With first-hand experience on all sides of Special Olympics Unified Schools I am uniquely equipped to support you in starting or growing your Unified Champion Schools program. I grew up in Kansas City and attended Park Hill School District. In 2010 I moved to Oklahoma and attended Owasso High School and became a Unified Partner for the district's Unified Bocce Team. The inclusive experiences I had led me to become a Special Educator and a Unified Club Co-Sponsor for the same school. As our coaches incorporated inclusive youth leadership opportunities within the club and facilitated student led whole school engagement we became a National Banner Unified Champion School. I would love to meet you and support your next steps towards being a more inclusive school.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Emma Thomas

Unified Champion Schools Manager

573-469-7832

thomas@somo.org

305 Special Olympics Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101