

Celebrate Diversity with Project Unify

Madison Local Schools

Angela Smith, Superintendent

Haley Azbill, Student Leader and 2015
Graduate of MHS

Bill Fisher, MHS Principal

Pat Liebhardt, Pupil Services Director

Devin Artz, Teacher MHS

Matt Conaway, Student MHS

Jennifer Conaway, Parent MHS

Background About our School and Team

- Northeastern Ohio High School-1050 students
- What makes our school special?
 - Students and Staff really come together for community
 - Collaborative Culture encouraged

Why are We Here?



Project Unify in Action

- Video Presentation of Fall and Spring Games

Haley Azbill-Sharing the Vision

- Origin of the Project
 - Special Olympics and Camp Sue Osborne
- What is Project Unify?
 - Student Led and Student Driven
 - Purpose to prevent bullying and exclusion through awareness
- Success of the event is that it promotes pride and togetherness as a school community

Teacher, Student and Parental Involvement

- Impact on Students-Matt Conaway
- How Teachers Got Involved-Devin Artz
- Parental Perspective-Jen Conaway

Stage 1: Making the game a reality

- Develop a game plan w/student organizer
 - Buddy system (SPED w/Varsity player)
 - Practices together
 - Adapted rule changes
- Meeting w/teachers of those SPED students
- Presenting the idea to the students in their class
- Selecting a date & time for the event
- Developing a checklist of ALL that needs to be done
 - Student Organizer (i.e. t-shirts, publicity, awards, etc.)
 - Administrative (i.e. practice, bell schedule, set-up, workers, etc.)

Stage 2: Financial Preparations

- Organizing any fundraising needed to do the event
 - “Go.FundME.com”
 - Ordering/payment of: t-shirts, awards, food, etc.
- Publicity for the event
 - Newspapers, TV stations, etc.
 - Teaching Staff (mtg)
 - Student Body (PA announcements, posters, etc.)
- Miscellaneous
 - Lunch after the game for players and parents of SPED students in Cyber Café

Stage 3: Week of the Game

- Practices (2/3 days) for the players
- Set-up of gym w/custodial staff
- Organization of student cheering section
- Fundraiser: Selling tickets @ lunches, morning of the game
- Other:

Stage 4: **GAME DAY!!**

- GYM set-up: Clock, PA, Bleachers, benches, etc.;
- Student Body
- Media present, game announcer, Introductions, etc.;
- Special Guests: BOE, Supt, parents of SPED students, other guests;
- Lunch for athletes and special guests after game

Pat Liebhardt-Building Inclusive Community

- Trust and Relationships
- Exposure and understanding = Acceptance
- Parents of typical athletes –vs- Parents of students with special needs
 - Years compared to a few games
- Impact on all students in environments
 - Classroom – Gym – Community

Replication and Continuing the Tradition

- **Budget**
 - \$500 dollars for each event,
 - including corporate donations of the medals
 - T Shirts at \$3 each.
 - Students paid .50¢ to get in the event, raising \$300 total for each event
- **Program Can be self-sustaining**
 - Go Fund Me
 - Corporate Donations

Next Steps and Future Directions

- For Information contact Haley Azbill at haleyrenea24@gmail.com
- Questions?????