

Inclusion Revolution

What inclusion looks like in school

The definition of inclusion was broad within itself: the action or state of including or of being included within a group or structure. From including people in clubs and activities, to committing acts of kindness that helped people feel safe a wherever they go, inclusion was a feeling everyone desired. For Phoebe Ramirez (11), inclusion was more than meets the eye.

"Inclusion to me means caring about people's needs and wants and not ignoring them. It also means letting people in certain groups, clubs, or sports if they want to be in them, no matter what their background is," Ramirez said.

Some students felt included in specific situations while others felt its reach almost anywhere.

"I feel included pretty much everywhere! During class it's nice because all my friends are there so it's easy to feel included with everyone there, and when I hang outside of school it's the same," David Shiling (12) said.

For other students, like Olivia Chol (12), a big part of where they felt a sense of togetherness was in school.

"I feel most included in my favorite teacher's classroom because no matter who else is in the room, it's a safe space where I'm always welcomed, no matter when or why," Chol said.

Oftentimes to achieve this goal of incorporation for all, people had to reach out to others who have not felt like part of a community they can call their own.

"I try to include people any chance I get, especially when they seem left out or in need of a friend," Evane Bartelmey (11) said.

Inclusion was something everyone deserves; whether it was with loved ones or in an activity. A sense of belonging was a feeling many felt and they took it upon themselves to reach out to others to create a community and help others find a place in which they feel included.



Included In LSA Diana Lopez (12) stands front and center surrounded by her LSA peers. "[I feel most included] in Latino Student Association because I feel most included when I'm surrounded with people who accept me for me, where I don't feel left out. Inclusion has a lot to do with acceptance, when I'm accepted I feel welcomed," Lopez said. Latino Student Association was a new club that offered a place of inclusion for Latino students. *Photo courtesy of E. Alvarado*



Part of The Whole In The Stands Jordan Rockwood (12) points at the camera with her peers during a football game at Legacy Stadium. "Inclusion to me means feeling like you are part of something bigger. I feel the most included in student sections," Rockwood said. Rockwood was an avid supporter of many activities at school. *Photo by K. Mwamba*

All For One In Esports Nicholas Jones (12) makes a funny face while posing with his team after an Esports game. "Esports is a great place to connect with people that share a similar interest as me. I've met some really great people and made some really great friends. [Esports creates a space of inclusion because] we accept people of any skill level for the game we are playing," Jones said. In its first year, Esports quickly grew as more members joined. *Photo courtesy of A. Amador*

Better Together

How unified sports offered a place for all to be included



Unified sports is a program that allows everyone involved to feel included within their community, as well as helps special education students participate in more ways than one. Some students chose to help at cheer assemblies and games while others enjoyed playing basketball with other schools in the district. Reilly Barker (12) was a member of Unified Cheer where she could participate in school events, like the spirit bus during Homecoming with her fellow cheerleaders and partners, one being Ms. Meggin Mithuen (Staff). Mithuen helped her feel included every step of the way. No matter what the students chose, they were guaranteed a place where they would be included and gain memorable high school experiences. *Photo by J. Bressler*



Smiles All Around Braden Fantauzzi (12) smiles at his fellow cheerleader while at an assembly for Fox Ridge Middle School during Homecoming week. Fantauzzi has been a member of Unified Cheer for all four years of his high school career and felt included within the program every day. Fantauzzi was all smiles when it came to cheering events. *Photo by J. Bressler*



Ball Out In The Gym Shadem Geda (9), number 35, warms up before the Unified Basketball game with the rest of his team. Unified Basketball is teamwork where Geda enjoyed sharing and playing basketball with his fellow teammates. Unified Basketball allowed special needs students to participate on their own league against other schools with the same program. *Photo by K. Lackore*

3 Clubs 1 Goal

How different clubs allow their members to feel included



Inclusion For All Gabrielle Davis (12) poses with her fellow National Art Honor Society members. "NAHS encourages all students to join. There is a common misconception that you have to be good at art to join, but it's not true. We value every member and give appreciation to those who help... We are hoping to reach out to more students in the future years by advertising more around the school," Davis said. NAHS showcased a variety of talents and artists. *Photo courtesy of H. Nguyen*



Girl Power Tori McDuffie (12) and TyLasia Martin (12) smile for the camera. "Girls Leadership Club makes me feel included because we all talk about our days and do activities such as drawing/painting to express ourselves. We also have a group chat so that we will always stay in touch," McDuffie said. Girls Leadership Club met every Thursday after school. *Photo by K. Mwamba*



Alliance In The Club Muskan Kakkar (12) hangs out at a SASA meeting. "In South Asian Student Association, we play games from India and other activities that are from South Asia, and we invite all people to join and play the games and they all usually have a blast. If they don't, we have other activities to do [so everyone can feel included]," Kakkar said. Kakkar was the president of S.A.S.A. *Photo by E. Cortes*



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