**Central Vermont Supervisiory Union**

**Unified Sports Program**

 ***2018 - 2019***

We are excited to announce our Unified Sports Program with Vermont Special Olympics. This year will be our first year officially as the Paine Mountain Unified Sports team. We will have a combined team from Northfield and Williamstown for all 3 sports! This is exciting and offers many more opportunities. A unified sports team brings together athletes with and without disabilities. *“Unified athletes build their bodies, sharpen their skills, challenge the competition, and have fun too. It is a physical workout that builds friendship, character, leadership and inspires greatness in all who participate.”*  The Unified Sports Program is offered statewide and many schools participate. There are a variety of sports that our students participate in, including bowling, snowshoeing, and bocce. We have had very successful bowling, snowshoeing and bocce seasons in the past.

***New*** athletes and partners complete the attached forms. ***Returning*** athletes and partners complete the attached permission form. Please indicate which seasons your child will be participating in. If you are interested in having your child participate **please return the completed form or permission slip to Carol Manahan at WMHS, Lisa Howarth at WES and Kim Chouinard at Northfield Schools by September 21, 2018.** Our first session will begin with team building and expectations and will be on **Sept. 27th from 3-4 at Williamstown Middle High School.** Our first season is bowling, and we will start bowling practices at Twin City Lanes on October 4th**.**

**Follow-up letters from coaches with contact information and practice schedules will be distributed at the beginning of each session.**

In considering whether your child will participate it is important for you to know the dates of practice and whether your child can commit to the time necessary to be an active team member. Athletes are **required** to have a minimum of 10 hours of practice over an eight week period. (Please see attached practice schedule). We will continue to practice between seasons as athletes and partners have requested that we continue to meet even after competitions. All practices will be occuring on Thursday afternoons.

We hope you will consider having your child participate and that you will support our Unified Athletic teams. If you have any questions please contact **Carol Manahan (802-433-7023) at WMHS, Lisa Howarth at WES and Kim Chouinard at Northfield Schools.**