

MAKING WAVES AT DCS



Dexter Students Hit the Lanes!

Inclusive bowling event strikes up fun

Earlier this month, 89 Dexter students from 4th grade through young adult teamed up to participate in a Unified School District bowling event at Whitmore Lake Bowling Lanes. Students cheered on each other as they enjoyed a day of sports, friendship, and fun.

In February of this year, Dexter High School became a part of the Special Olympics Michigan Unified Champion Schools program, a group of over 350 Michigan schools focused on becoming more inclusive through the power of sport, inclusive youth leadership, and school-wide awareness. Students with and without intellectual disabilities are brought together to lead the Unified Champion Schools program in their school and community.

DHS Special Education teacher Kalli Nowitzke and her students have been presenting in several classrooms at Wylie Elementary and DHS, sharing information about learning differences, inclusion, and the DHS Peer2Peer class and SNAP (Students Need Accepting Peers) Club. “Every week we play games, read, and cadet teach to build a more inclusive community,” Nowitzke said. “This gives our students an opportunity to take a leadership role in the community. We have seen a lot of growth in students' social skills, as well as their ability to lead a group.”

For the April 6th bowling event, each team included a mix of Wylie students with high needs, Wylie students who are primarily in the general education setting, NHS/Peer2Peer/SNAP students, young adults (former Dreadnaughts at the Dexter WISD program), and high school students who are supported in the DHS High Needs Resource Room. Each team was named by the students in the High Needs Resource Room. As a special bonus, members of the DHS National Honor Society (NHS) created trophies for the teams, gathering trophy donations from the community and refurbishing them for the event.

Fellow DHS Special Education teachers Jenni Davis and Elizabeth Treppa shared their appreciation for the event. “Thank you to Kallie for going above and beyond every day to give our kids these amazing experiences! My students and I are so grateful to be able to participate,” said Davis.

Treppa added, “Students were smiling ear to ear when they returned!”

Wylie Special Education teacher Angela Anderson also expressed her thanks, saying, “The students had a wonderful time together!”

[Link to Unified Champion Schools press release](#)