

BEST BUDDIES®



Best Buddies

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What is Best Buddies?

Mission: Best Buddies International is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Best Buddies at MOHS: A club open to all members of the student body, grades 9-12

Main Goal: To create an environment where everyone feels included

Overall Purpose: To make lifelong friendships, have fun with all of our peers, and to help each other

Four Mission Pillars

**One to One
Friendships**

**Integrated
Employment**

**Leadership
Development**

Inclusive Living

One to One Friendships

- Build friendships between peers with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)
- Members in buddy pairs spend time together inside and outside of school to foster established friendship.



Leadership Development

- Each year our cabinet attends the Best Buddies Leadership Conference to collaborate with other schools
- Recently we have added a buddy director to our cabinet, which is filled by one of our members with IDD to ensure that all of the voices in our club are being heard
- At this year's Best Buddies New Jersey Gala, our advisor Mrs Gilbert was awarded Advisor of the Year





Major Events



Beginning of the Year:

- Thanksgiving Feast
- Holiday Party
- Best Buddies Month
- Time to Shine

Coming Up:

- Friendship Walk
 - Fundraising
 - Best Buddies Ball
- 

Thanksgiving Feast

- Students connect through a week's worth of cooking in preparation for the feast.
- The feast takes place during the school day
- A plethora of activities take place; coloring, dancing, eating, etc!
- An exciting tradition students look forward to year-round!



Holiday Party

- Held in December as a celebration for upcoming holidays
- Games, gift exchange, arts and crafts, food are enjoyed
- Student 'Santa Clause' makes an appearance to give gifts to buddies!
- Photobooth encouraged for memories to be well-kept



Best Buddies Month

- March is Best Buddies Month!
 - We celebrate the growth of Best Buddies, and how it has expanded to promoting one to one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living
- Our chapter will have a table in the lobby every Friday during lunch with different events to promote inclusion to the student body!

BEST BUDDIES MONTH 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 ORANGE FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WEAR ORANGE	9	10 TABLING FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 OFF	18
19 ST. LUKE'S BAKE SALE	20	21 PIZZA AND A MOVIE \$7	22	23	24 TABLING BUTTERFLY WINGS	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 TABLING \$5 MAKE N TAKE	

Time to Shine

- Student led- talent show encouraged by cabinet and advisors
- Thespian Honor Society, Tri-M, Unified Club, and Best Buddies come together to make it an all around inclusive performance.
- Rehearsals take place during lunch, after-school, and anytime students desire!



Friendship Walk

- Raises awareness for inclusion, friendship, leadership, development, and integrated job opportunities for individuals with IDD
- A uniting event, hosted this year at Mount Olive High School Track
- Welcome for the entirety of Morris County to attend this celebration to spread the message of inclusion and friendship!



Fundraising

- Students volunteer to fundraise outside of school
- One of our most successful fundraisers was the Bake Sale held at Tractor Supply
- Money from the fundraisers goes directly towards our end of the year ball, holiday parties, and other events



Best Buddies Ball

- End of the year themed function, all members of best buddies are encouraged to attend!
- This year our theme is tie dye- selected by club members
 - Examples of past themes are Super Heroes vs Villains, Disney, Outer Space
- DJ, dancing, dinner are enjoyed in the Mount Olive High School Cafeteria
- Past fundraises used to pay for this special event!



Conclusion

- Best Buddies has taught us all important life lessons about inclusion and friendship
- Our goal is to share these messages with our student body, and our community, to help create an environment where everyone feels included

