



South Whidbey Middle School



Congratulations to our Unified Champion School of the Month!

South Whidbey Middle School is our December Unified Champion School of the Month! South Whidbey took gold in the Unified Robotics Championship in November! 2023 was South Whidbey Middle School's 3rd year participating in Unified Robotics. The team has grown each year, from one robotics team in 2021 to three competing this past year. Nearly every student who participated last year returned to join the team again! This program has had such a positive impact on South Whidbey's school community, bringing together students to form friendships that last far beyond robotics. For many, this is the only extra-curricular activity in which they have participated and the only team uniform they have ever worn. It is a special team bond, and they look forward to it every year! Dante on The Brickaneers Robotics Team says, "I enjoyed participating in Special Olympics robotics! This is my second year. Everything was a very fast-paced experience and there was so much suspense at times at the competition. I enjoyed it!" Dylan, on South Whidbey's Yoho Rowboat team commented that, "It was cool to see that everyone had such great sportsmanship even if their team lost, or the robot broke, or the coding didn't work. I have never seen such sportsmanship with everyone helping each other." Is your school fostering inclusion in a exceptional way? Fill out the form [here](#) to be our next UCS School of the Month!



Engagement, Trainings, and Leadership Opportunities

YOUTH LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Do you have a outstanding Unified pair and mentor who wants to expand their leadership skills? Apply for the 2024 Youth Leadership Experience at Winter Games.

Winter Application Due Date: 2/1/24

Youth Leadership Experience: 3/1-3/4

Location: Wenatchee, WA

Application Link [HERE!](#)



MID-TERM REPORTING

The Mid-Term Unified Report is super helpful to continue to supply funding and opportunity to your schools. Please fill out this form by Tuesday January 16th. The link to the form is [HERE](#)



STATE YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

ONLY 7 SECONDS



Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools

STATEWIDE YOUTH SUMMIT

Do you have a Unified pair and mentor who would love to become an agent for inclusion and belonging? Apply for the 2024 Statewide Unified Youth Leadership Summit this March 29th-30th in Olympia, WA! Applications due March 6th. Apply [HERE](#)



FIND A POLAR PLUNGE NEAR YOU

Want to be a 'cool school'? Register as a school and join the fun- email LETR@sowa for a special discount code. Check out [this link](#) to find a polar plunge near you!



Unified Sports Opportunities

Unified E-Sports

Is your school interested in competing in Unified E-Sports this Spring in a league with schools across the country? Be sure to enroll here so your school doesn't miss out. We will provide your club with FREE X-BOXES!

Season and League Structure-

Game Offerings: Mario Kart and Rocket League

There will be two leagues: East and West
Enrollment Deadline 2/10/23



Unified Basketball Coaches Meeting

If you missed the Unified Basketball Coaches meeting, check out the recording Coaches meeting recording [HERE](#)
Passcode: qKq=mZ3#



Unified Robotics Highlights

Congratulations to Whidbey Middle School for taking home the gold at the 2023 Unified Robotics Championship! A total of 60 athletes and 52 partners from 10 schools participated in the Unified Robotics Championships!



Congratulations to Liberty High School for taking home this year's "Foster Award" at the 2023 Unified Robotics Championships! This award is given to a school who has gone above and beyond in building an inclusive school community.



Getting Started

STEP 1: LEARN ABOUT UCS

The introduction to Unified Champion Schools for Educators is a 45 minute course that increases educators understandings of the UCS strategy and demonstrate its positive impact on students with and without disabilities and the ways that UCS strategy fosters socially inclusive school communities and positive school climate.

Create your login here and select "US-Unified Schools" as your interest area



STEP 2: DEVELOP A SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The first step to becoming a Unified Champion School is to bring together a team to lead the work. The leadership team is responsible for establishing the vision and overarching goals for the school, guide early stages of implementation and ensuring fidelity to quality through consistent monitoring and nurturing with an eye toward continuous movement



STEP 3: IDENTIFY A SCHOOL LIASION

The school liaison is the primary contact between Special Olympics Washington and the School. The liaison engages and empowers youth leaders to implement the 3 components of a Unified Champion School. They are also a part of the Leadership Team.



STEP 4: CREATE YOUR PLAN

Identify what component your school is going to offer and create a plan to implement

STEP 5: COMPLETE THE COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION FORM

Register your school to let us know your plans for inclusion. This helps us better support you and officially recognize each school as a Special Olympics Washington Unified School.

Trainings to have on your radar!

[Liaisons: Activate your Student Body \(MS/HS\) 1/23](#)

[Liaisons: Activate your Student Body \(PreK/Elementary 1/23\)](#)