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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jefferson High School celebrates being named a National Banner School for Special Olympics with Schoolwide Assembly

Today, Jefferson High School celebrated receiving its official Indiana Special Olympics banner, making them a Unified Champion School. They are one of 50 schools in the state to achieve this status.

The entire student body was present in two assemblies, which featured guests from Special Olympics Indiana, including Michael Hasch, Senior Director of Unified Champion Schools, and Brian Avery, Champions Together Consultant.

“You guys are leaders in the inclusion movement in unified sports,” Hasch told the crowd.

Participating schools must achieve 10 standards in order to be awarded a banner. They are challenged to engage their entire school community in inclusive activities and to achieve certain goals related to each of the four pillars of the Unified Champion School program. Schools that meet or exceed each of these milestones in a given school year are awarded a recognition banner, while those that go above and beyond may be eligible for national recognition by Special Olympics North America.

JHS is proud to be implement the program’s four pillars: inclusive youth leadership opportunities, Unified Sports, whole school engagement, and collaborative fundraising. The program is designed to be woven into the fabric of the school, enhancing current efforts and providing rich opportunities that lead to meaningful change in creating a socially inclusive school that supports and engages all students, teachers, and administrators. JHS will be a recognized school through 2027.

JHS offers multiple Unified Sports, including track and field, bowling and bocce ball.

Unified Champions and Special Olympics are all about relationships and inclusion, all of which was evident in today’s assemblies, says Avery.

“Jefferson High School has a great school culture,” he says. “This crowd today is supportive and respectful.”

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