

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

- 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
- We've become more involved in the school community by volunteering:
 - Safe Trick or Treat and Easter Egg Hunt





Major Events

Beginning of the Year:

- Club Fair & Block Party
- Safe Trick-or-Treat
- Thanksgiving Feast
- Holiday Party

End of Year:

- Best Buddies Month-Inclusion Week
 - Egg Hunt
 - Fundraising- Friendship Walk
 - 2025 Lip Dub
 - Best Buddies Ball
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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!



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 had a table in the lobby every day for one week 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 SB MAKE N TAKE	

Fundraising

- Students volunteer to fundraise outside of school
- One of our most successful fundraisers was the Friendship Walk at Seton Hall University.
- Money from the fundraisers goes directly towards our end of the year ball, holiday parties, and creating new chapters around NJ



Best Buddies Ball

- End of the year, themed function where all members of Best Buddies are encouraged to attend!
- This year our theme was “Under the Sea”- selected by club members
 - Examples of past themes: Super Heroes vs Villains, Disney, and Tie-Dye
- Dancing, dinner, and prizes are enjoyed in the Mount Olive High School Cafeteria
- Past fundraises have paid 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

