


## Partners PE Model



Presented by:

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&

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## Starting Off...

### Partners PE Video

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## What is Partners PE?

- ▶ Formerly known as "Adapted Physical Education", it is a unique twist on a typical Physical Education Class
- ▶ An opportunity to pair disabled and non-disabled peers together. The term "Athlete" is meant to refer to the student with a disability. The term "Partner" is meant to refer to the student (with or without a disability) who will be responsible for working with the "Athletes" to help them achieve their personal, classroom, and IEP goals.
- ▶ Athletes and Partners are paired in 1:1 or 1:1.5 ratios to participate in the class together
- ▶ There is an application/interview process for students wishing to be "Partners."



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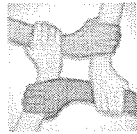
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### Where We Started...

- › 1 semester of a regular education physical education class requirement
- › Incorporating the class with just students from the Life Skills Support Class
- › In-house tournaments among the Athletes and Partners who were in the same class
- › Partners classes were isolated within their own school/district



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### Aspects of the Partners PE Class

- › A one week orientation with the students in the class to discuss procedures, confidentiality, and information about various disabilities
- › Paraprofessional Support to assist during the class with student problems that may arise and to help guide partners with how to handle student situations.
- › All typical units and activities of the PE class take place, but with adaptations and accommodations.
- › Ideal class size- 30-35 students, with a ratio of 1:1.5 athletes to partners

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### How The Class Runs

- › Partners help athletes with locker assignments and time management skills
- › Once ready, students all participate in "walking and talking" activity as a warm-up
- › Students participate in the day's activity based on unit's requirements
- › At the end of class, Partners are often called in to review class's event, issues, or problems and how to work through them in the future.

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### Benefits of Partners PE

- ▶ Increased awareness and understanding of students with disabilities- breaking down social stigmas
- ▶ Additional support for students from peers instead of just the teacher/paraprofessional
- ▶ More time in regular education for students in Special Education
- ▶ Opportunity to interact with other local schools participating in Partners PE for various events
- ▶ Helping other people achieve their personal goals (socially, athletically, physically, etc.)



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### Adaptations & Accommodations

- ▶ Consultation with other service providers (OT,PT, Speech, etc.)
- ▶ Differentiated Instruction
  - Not everyone has the same expectations
- ▶ Competitive & Non-Competitive Games
  - Simultaneously or intermittently
  - Different or same rules
  - Various team sizes
  - Various equipment

*\*Pretty Much We Find a Way to Succeed!*

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### How Partners Are Chosen

- ▶ Application Process
- ▶ Interviews
- ▶ Consultation with guidance counselors and/or other teachers
- ▶ Referrals from staff members
- ▶ Recruitment of other students involved with our Special Olympics Club or other school activities

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### Are You a Partner or an Athlete?

- ▶ Some higher functioning students with disabilities could potentially fall under the category of either Partner or Athlete.
- Students in this category are asked at the beginning of the class whether they want to be considered a Partner or an Athlete.
- Some even go back and forth throughout the year/activity.



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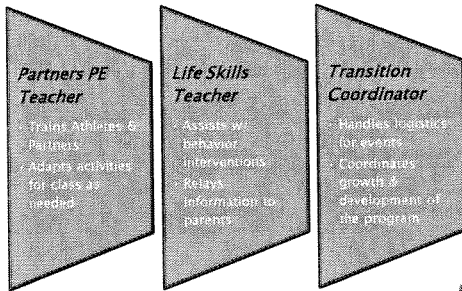
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### Baldwin's "TRIFECTA" Model



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### Where We Are Today...

- ▶ Multiple sections of the Partners PE class each day, each semester
- ▶ Incorporation of Emotional Support Students and Students with Section 504 plans as either "Athletes" or "Partners" depending on their individual situation
- ▶ 40% (17 out of 42) school districts in Allegheny County participate in this program in some way, shape, or form
- ▶ 10 out of the 17 participating districts have hosted their own event in some capacity
- ▶ New school districts have joined each year since 2009

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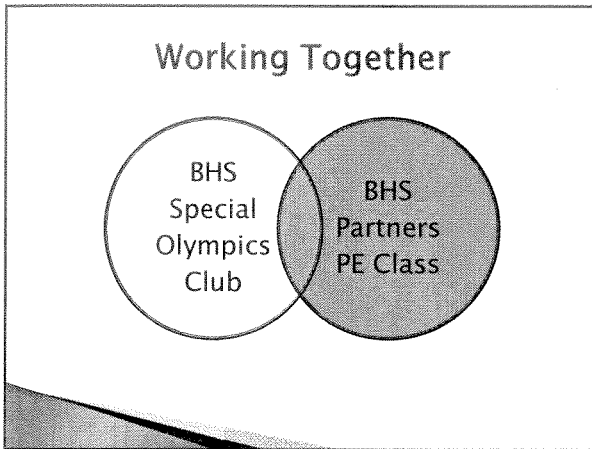
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### What Does Partners Look Like In Other School Districts?

- › Partners PE Class Alone
- › "Partners" or "Friends" Afterschool Activities
- › Special Olympics Clubs
- › Student Helpers for the Life Skills Class
- › Monthly Partners Events with Participating School Districts

A collection of logos for various school districts, including a stylized 'A', 'K', 'USE', and several circular and rectangular emblems.

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### Events

A collage of four photographs showing school events: a group of students in a gymnasium, a group of students on a field, a group of students in a large outdoor arena, and a group of students on a field.

EF Camp of Champions Video

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### Special Olympics Summer & Winter Games



The block contains four black and white photographs. The top-left photo shows a group of athletes standing together. The top-right photo shows athletes in a group, possibly during a game. The bottom-left photo shows a group of people, likely athletes and staff. The bottom-right photo shows a group of athletes sitting at a table, possibly during a meal or social event.

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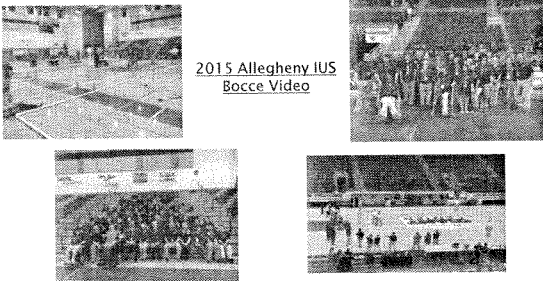
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### Special Olympics Interscholastic Unified Sports



2015 Allegheny IUS  
Bocce Video



The block features four photos: a bocce court, a group of athletes, a group of people, and a group of athletes. A video link is provided. The Special Olympics Unified Sports logo is at the bottom right.

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### Not Just Athletics...

- › Movie days
- › Holiday dances/socials
- › Meals in the community
- › Trips to various locations in the community
- › High school musicals/recitals
- › School athletic events
- › Shopping trips



The block includes a list of activities and two photos. The top photo shows a group of people at a social event. The bottom photo shows a group of people, possibly at a shopping trip.

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### Fundraising for a Great Cause

- Polar Plunge  
[2014 BHS Polar Plunge Video](#)
- Special Olympics Summer Games
- Variety Children's Charity My Bike Program



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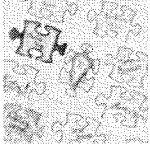

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### Inclusion & Raising Awareness

#### Spread The Word To End The Word Campaign



#### Autism Awareness Week



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### Life Skills Prom

- › Our group's culminating activity that takes place each May
- › Started out being hosted in school gymnasiums
- › Different schools take a turn hosting
  - Elizabeth Forward SD elevated the Life Skills Prom transformed the event in 2013

#### 2013 Life Skills Prom



#### 2015 Life Skills Prom



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### Where We're Going...

- ▶ Assisting other schools with starting up their own Partners PE Class
- ▶ Working with current school districts to host an event who currently do not.
- ▶ Increasing the number of schools with a Partners PE Class in addition to other school initiatives.
- ▶ Setting up Partners School District Groups in each region of the Pittsburgh Area
- ▶ Discussing ways to enhance curriculum and exchange ideas



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### Fruits of our Labor

- ▶ Former Partners PE students have gone onto to do great things such as:
  - Becoming Teachers, Occupational & Physical Therapists, and Speech or Hearing Teachers
  - Coming back to us as interns in college
  - Starting Special Olympics clubs at their colleges/schools

*\*Our goal is to create future leaders who will help change the culture surrounding individuals with disabilities.*



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### Final Thoughts...

TedxBaldwinHighSchool Talk

***"Play Together,  
Live Together."***



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**For more information...**

Please feel free to come out and see our Partners PE  
Class in action!

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