

## Special Olympics Massachusetts Schools Newsletter

### Happy NEW Year!

We are excited for the **New** Year ahead with our **New** Schools and the re**NEW**al of excitement with our experienced schools. A huge thank you to all the Liaisons, Teachers, Coaches, Principals, Athletic Directors, and the students that work together to make inclusive experiences happen.

Part of our excitement is learning what you are achieving through the Mid-Year Survey.

#### Mid-Year Survey

Each school year we collect surveys at the Mid-Year. Liaisons, please let us know what you have accomplished in the first half of the year in the areas of Unified Sports, Inclusive Leadership and Whole School Engagement. All surveys are due by Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Reminder** - at least one activity must be completed in each area by the end of the school year to fulfill your commitment as a Unified Champion School for 2023-24.

Thank you in advance for completing this important survey by **January 12th!** [CLICK HERE](#)



### This month's Highlights of Celebrations

We continue to share photos of National Banner celebrations.



Congratulations!

#### Are you ready to become a National Banner School?

Please e-mail [schools@specialolympicsma.com](mailto:schools@specialolympicsma.com) if you are interested in learning more about the National Banner application process.

### 2023 Youth Summit & YAC Information



What a wonderful day it was! Last month our YAC members did an amazing job planning and facilitating a Youth Summit at the MIAA headquarters for over 60 students from across the state. These students learned valuable information on how to make an impact at their schools through Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement.

Stay tuned—we will be hosting another Youth Summit in the spring.

Do you know of any emerging student leaders, Freshmen or Sophomores, that would enjoy an opportunity to be a YAC member? [SOMA YAC Application Form for 23-24](#)

## Mobile Plunge

North Reading High School breaks the ice as first school to plunge in Bear Force One



The idea of bringing a mobile plunge to schools was first brought up at a Youth Activation Council (YAC) webinar last year, and North Reading Special Education teacher Kelly Gilbert knew right away that the school should be involved.

"Not only is this a fun event, but it's raising money for such a good cause and something that is near and dear to our heart as a Unified Champion School," said Gilbert.

[Click here for the full story!](#)

Check out [this TikTok](#) to learn more about two of our North Reading High plungers, Ava & Erin!

Is *your school* interested in partaking in a mobile plunge this winter season? [CLICK HERE](#) for the steps needed to bring Bear Force One to your school!

## High School Unified Track & Field



#### Coaches Meetings:

Tuesday, Jan. 30th at 3:00 - [REGISTER HERE](#)

Wednesday, Jan. 31st at 4:00 - [REGISTER HERE](#)

Thursday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 - [REGISTER HERE](#)

Tuesday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 - [REGISTER HERE](#)

#### Season Overview:

Week of 3/18 - Practices begin  
Week of 4/1 - Meets begin  
4/12 - Roster Due AND Intent to Enter Due  
5/6-5/17 - Sectionals  
5/22 - States (Rain Date May 23<sup>rd</sup>)

## Middle School Unified Basketball



#### Coaches Meetings:

Tuesday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 - [REGISTER HERE](#)

Wednesday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 - [REGISTER HERE](#)

Thursday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 - [REGISTER HERE](#)

#### Season Overview:

Season begins Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> and ends March 29<sup>th</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>.  
\*Games are scheduled based on geographical groupings.

If you have questions, please reach out to [schools@specialolympicsma.com](mailto:schools@specialolympicsma.com).