

Special Olympics January 7, 2020 presentation to SPPS SEAC Follow Up

Special Olympics Young Athletes:

- **Where is Young Athletes is currently happening?**

Special Olympics is currently in phase 0 meaning we're not holding any in person programming. All of our community Young Athletes are on hold until we get out of this phase. With the new government restrictions winding down and covid rates continuing to decline we're hopeful to open up at the end of the month. However, schools who are in person at this time can run young athletes during their school day since schools take on the liability. (Happy to assist any school who's interested in doing programming get started)

- **Winter Virtual Young Athletes**

- weekly from January 15th through March 5th from 10:00-10:30 a.m.
 - is free

- **On demand Young Athletes programming**

- on demand program starting April 2nd
 - pre recorded videos will be created by one of our instructors
 - families can do YA as it best fits with their schedule.
 - we're also hoping to have an incentive for families who participate in this program

- **On demand Young Athletes Readers Club**

- -pre-recorded videos of stories along with coloring sheets that can be completed after.
 - - If families share their coloring pages with us we will send them a free book in the mail.
 - Here is a link below for our YA story time.
 - <https://specialolympicsminnesota.org/get-involved/somn-at-home/somn-home-young-athletes/young-athletes-story-time/>

- **Special Olympics international Young Readers Club**

- Learn how a young readers club can be implemented
 - Inclusive books, discussion questions, and activities that can be implemented in schools
 - https://media.specialolympics.org/resources/community-building/young-athletes/at-home/Unified-Young-Readers-Club-Resource-2020.pdf?_ga=2.11755700.1687725781.1610651771-1122087627.1554915235

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- **How a parent can get involved with Young Athletes or Special Olympics?**

- Anyone interested in starting up a program or participating in an existing program can reach out to me directly. Would be more than happy to support this process. In normal times we utilize our YA website for families to sign up and see what locations are

available. We're hoping to get back to some in person expos/programming and will use that platform more to get the word out.

- **For more contact: Wakpor Rengel** at wakpor.rengel@somn.org

Inclusion Library

<https://schools.specialolympicsminnesota.org/inclusive-student-leadership/inclusion-library/>

- If your school is signed up, we can send these out FOR FREE!
- If your school is not signed up, you can get ideas here but unfortunately purchase them elsewhere.

SOMN Virtual opportunities that are open to students are found on our calendar here:

<https://schools.specialolympicsminnesota.org/calendar/>

- However, the best way to get involved with the unified movement is through becoming a champion school. I HIGHLY recommend connecting with myself if your school was not on that list!
- Because any students can sign up, we cannot guarantee a unified experience- again, getting connected through your school is the best scenario!

SOMN Community Teams in St Paul

- Highland Friendship Club-- <https://www.highlandfriendshipclub.org/>
- St Paul Magic—let me know if you would like to be connected!

Twin Cities Colleges involved with SOMN are...

- St. Thomas
- Macalester
- The U of M

We've got some awesome things happening in the **SPPS that we are currently in!** If people have specific questions on how to get involved with them, please have them contact me and I can help facilitate or direct them to that educator! (Central, Highland Park Senior, Highland Park Middle, Johnson High School)

Student Board of Directors information can be found here:

<https://schools.specialolympicsminnesota.org/event/student-board-of-directors-meeting/2021-01-12/>

(please note there is an application process!)

The challenges that take place via GooseChase are for our Unified Champion Schools!

For more information about Special Olympics Unified contact: Emily Garness at emily.garness@somn.org

