

September 18, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter on behalf of our High School in support of the benefits our Friendship Club has had on our entire student body. I truly believe it is one of our most valuable programs.

When I arrived at the school three years ago, it was apparent immediately that our special needs kids were different from those I had been in contact with at my other schools. They were more outgoing and friendly. They interacted more with our non-special needs kids. They had more confidence in themselves. All of these items can be contributed to our Friendship Club.

Our club has many positive opportunities for our special needs students which allow them to be more involved with school life. They attend extra-curricular events together, including dances and athletic contests. Their annual Talent Show is one of the highlights of the year. They have a weekly time on Fridays where they can meet with their "buddies" to develop relationships and have fun.

I think the impact the Friendship Club has on our non-special needs kids is as great as the impact on our special needs population. At our school, the student body is much more comfortable being around kids with disabilities. They call them by name; say hello to them when they see them in the hall; and interact with them much more often. The club has made it "okay" even "cool" to interact with these particular kids.

I strongly encourage you to become involved with, and support these types of programs. I will never allow this program to be dissolved at the school. It is too valuable for all of our students.

Sincerely,