How Circle of Friends Can Increase Inclusion & Decrease Bullying at Your Schools

The mission of Circle of Friends is to provide inclusion for students with disabilities on school campuses by establishing the understanding and acceptance of differences, building genuine friendships, decreasing bullying and making a significant social impact within communities nationwide.

What Is Circle of Friends?

Circle of Friends (CoF) is an inclusion program at lunch where students with disabilities (i.e., autism, Down syndrome, etc...) form lasting friendships with non-disabled peers through meaningful social interactions in the natural environment. General education students are trained to model and shape appropriate social skills for their peers with special needs. Bullying decreases, creating a safer school environment.

What grade level is this program for?

Circle of Friends is for elementary, middle and high schools. As of 2017, Circle of Friends has launched over 240 chapters and positively impacted the lives of more than 80,000 students with and without disabilities!

What does CoF provide?

Circle of Friends’ three-year consultation program provides a systematic approach to improving social language skills for students with special needs. It includes a comprehensive manual as well as three Workshops in both Year 1 and Year 2 and one workshop in Year 3. Within two months of your first workshop your school will begin Circle of Friends at lunchtime. At the end of three years, your school will have a solid, self-sustained program with lunch groupings, activities within the community, Ability Awareness presentations and more to sensitize your entire campus and community to differences.

How does CoF impact the campus?

All participants increase their awareness, understanding, and acceptance of differences. Circle of Friends builds an inclusive campus climate that welcomes and values all students. Through this program, bullying has been reported to decrease.

For more information contact Robyn Reagan at (310) 312-6600, or visit our website at https://CircleofFriends.org.