Inclusion Month

**Monday: “Everyone Belongs” Day**

* Kick off the week with a school-wide assembly or virtual event to introduce the theme of Inclusion Week. I know this might be hard but even trying to let teachers introduce the idea within the classrooms itself when there is a little time, that way people understand what this is.
* Include testimonials from students, staff, or local Special Olympics athletes. (Helps to show the impact of what to be done).
* Distribute “Everyone Belongs” stickers or wristbands. Or create posters with peers/leadership classes and special education classes and hang them all over the school.

**Tuesday: Sports for All Day (Or jersey day)**

* Host inclusive sports events, where students of all abilities can participate in adapted games (e.g., unified basketball, bocce, or relay races).
* Partner with Special Olympics athletes to lead workshops on adaptive sports.
* Use this day for everyone to wear jerseys and promote sports and then go from there.

**Wednesday: Random Acts of Kindness Day/candy gram sales**

* Encourage students to perform random acts of kindness, such as writing positive notes to classmates or helping peers in need.
* Create a “Kindness Wall” where students can share their acts or write inclusivity pledges.
* Have these candy gram sales have a positive message and send them out to different students across the school (this would be a twist on Valentines day candy grams).

**Thursday: “Abilities Shine Day”**

* This day focuses on celebrating the unique talents, skills, and abilities of all individuals, emphasizing that everyone has something valuable to contribute. Or activities for Abilities Shine Day
* Abilities Spotlight Wall
* Create a wall display where students write down their unique strengths or what makes them proud of themselves.
* Use prompts like, “What makes you shine?” or “What’s your hidden superpower?”
* Inspirational Stories Sharing
* Share stories in class or during assemblies about individuals who have turned their abilities into achievements. Highlight Special Olympics athletes and their journeys.

**Friday: Culminating Activity**

* Pep rally – have unified sport game for Friday and do a fundraiser
* Teacher vs Unified

**YOUR ROLE INITIATING THIS:**

*As the representative for Inclusion Week, it is your responsibility to actively advocate for and carry out inclusive activities and practices that provide all students, regardless of ability, with a feeling of community. The goal of Inclusion Week is to foster an atmosphere where everyone is accepted. You must collaborate with peers to create a well-defined plan of action if you want this week to have a significant effect. Here are some ideas for implementing Inclusion Week at your school on your own initiative:*

**Collaborate with Student Council and School Clubs:**

* Partner with student council members or other leadership clubs to host Inclusion Week activities.
* Encourage the student government council to focus their efforts on promoting inclusivity, hosting lunchtime activities, or even planning a school assembly dedicated to inclusion.
* Reach out to other clubs to collaborate and increase participation.

**Plan School-Wide Announcements:**

* Use the school’s daily announcements to spread the message of Inclusion Week.
* Share impactful facts about inclusion, stories from students with disabilities, or positive messages about diversity.
* Create a short and powerful daily announcement that encourages kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.
* Feature announcements about any Inclusion Week events happening at your school

**Leverage Social Media:**

* Work with your school’s social media team or create posts dedicated to Inclusion Week.
* Share student stories, inspirational quotes, or highlight moments from the events during the week.
* Use hashtags like #InclusionWeek, #UnifiedSchools, or #SOOInclusion.
* Encourage students to share their own stories about inclusion or post photos of their participation.

**Use Posters and Visuals Around the School:**

* Create posters and bulletin boards that reflect the theme of Inclusion Week.
* Include quotes about inclusivity, highlight diverse abilities, and showcase photos from past school events promoting inclusion.
* Decorate classroom doors with messages of acceptance and kindness.

**Engage Teachers and Staff:**

* Encourage teachers to integrate inclusion messages or activities into their lessons during Inclusion Week.
* Ask teachers to promote inclusion within their classrooms by recognizing students who demonstrate kindness, empathy, or support for their peers.
* Offer teachers pre-made resources like inclusion-themed lesson plans, discussion prompts, or video clips to promote understanding.

**THINGS TO THINK ABOUT! (ACTIVATION IDEAS):**

Tik Toks with student government and other clubs

Photo contests

Social media hashtag

Inclusion Bingo – Schools complete a bingo card filled with inclusive activities (first school that can complete it).