

# 2011-2012 “TOGETHER WE’RE BETTER” Elementary School Poster Contest

## About our Contest

The theme for the contest is “***Together We’re Better.***” The purpose of the contest is to raise awareness of the value and importance of inclusion and to promote awareness of disabilities.

The Arc Maryland, Inc., in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education, the Maryland Department of Disabilities, Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education and Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, is pleased to announce its 2011-2012 “Together We’re Better” Inclusive Schools Awareness Campaign.

This year we will offer the “Together We’re Better” Poster Contest for elementary students only (please see Rules and Entry Forms on the following pages.)

The “Together We’re Better” Awareness Campaign will kick-off October 1 to celebrate Maryland’s Disability History and Awareness Month. The Arc Maryland has compiled links and information in a “Diversity Celebration Kit” (see link at [www.thearcmd.org](http://www.thearcmd.org)) to help teachers in preparing lesson plans and activities for students to celebrate the diverse abilities of all students.

The Poster Contest and awareness activities will enhance school-wide awareness of inclusive practices while engaging students in activities that create a sense of caring and community. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate in a meaningful way with one another while reflecting on what they have learned during the campaign.

**For more information on the contest please contact Shaneka Harris, Advocacy Events Coordinator, The Arc Maryland at (410) 571-9320 or email [sharris@thearcmd.org](mailto:sharris@thearcmd.org)**

## “Together We’re Better” (TWB) Posters

Students are invited to create and submit a class poster that explores one or more of the following themes:

- why inclusive schools are important;
- how ALL students of various abilities are members of the community; or
- demonstrate something learned during Awareness Month activities.

## Who May Enter

Classes in grades K – 5 in a public, parochial, or private elementary school in Maryland may submit a class poster. This includes children with and without disabilities.

## Contest Deadline

The deadline for receiving entries is DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>. *Any entries received after the stated deadline will be automatically disqualified.* Entries must be mailed or delivered to:

“Together We’re Better Essay” Contest c/o The Arc Maryland  
49 Old Solomon’s Island Road, Suite 205  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

## Rules

The sky is the limit on your creative participation. A copy of the included entry form must be filled out and securely attached to the back of the poster. Print all information clearly and fill out the form completely. Class posters that include photographs of students, must submit an authorized release form signed by the parent/legal guardian of each child pictured. Failure to provide authorization may disqualify entries.

**\*NEW: Participating students must complete post-activity surveys to help us document outcomes of this initiative. (Please see SURVEY form.)**

## Judging

Winners will be contacted by phone. Winning students, family members and teachers will be invited to be recognized at a reception in Annapolis in February 2012.

**A First Place, Second Place, and Third Place** prize will be awarded. Judging will be by the Together We're Better Steering Committee and youth with disabilities and will be carried out in a fair and professional manner. The judging panel decisions are final. This year to enable community participation in the awareness campaign, the public will be able to vote for the "People's Choice Award" through social media channels.

Winning entries will be displayed at the Awards Reception, the legislative tunnels and may be displayed and/or reproduced in newsletters, websites and on social media sites such as Facebook or Twitter.

Winning Entries/Prizes		
First Prize	Class Party - \$50.00 gift card	<b>Teacher prize: \$500.00 gift certificate</b>
Second Prize	Class Party - \$50.00 gift card	<b>Teacher prize: \$300.00 gift certificate</b>
Third Prize	Class Party - \$50.00 gift card	<b>Teacher prize: \$150.00 gift certificate</b>

## Additional Information

- PLEASE PACK POSTERS FLAT. **DO NOT ROLL!**
- Posters will not be returned.
- All entries become the property of The Arc Maryland, Inc. Winners will be notified by phone. Entries may be used in public forums. If class posters include photographs of students, please submit an authorized release signed by the parent/guardian of each pictured child. Failure to provide authorization may disqualify entries.

**For additional information, please contact Shaneka Harris, Advocacy Events Coordinator, The Arc Maryland (410) 571-9320 or [sharris@thearcmd.org](mailto:sharris@thearcmd.org).**

# POST-ACTIVITY SURVEY - Elementary Students

## “TOGETHER WE’RE BETTER” INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

This form must be completed by each participating student and submitted along with Poster.

1. I enjoyed the activities and learned about people with disabilities.



2. I learned something I did not know about people who have disabilities.



3. Schools are better when students with disabilities learn and play with everyone else.



4. Kids with disabilities are just like me – they want to play, learn, and make friends.



If photos are used in your entry, please complete one form for each student shown and have each parent/legal guardian sign.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Permission to Release Information in Printed and Photographic Form

I am the parent or legal guardian of the above named student and hereby give my permission for The Arc Maryland to release this photograph for The Arc Maryland's "Together We're Better" Campaign, including publishing on website, newsletter, press releases, and displays.

I understand that I will not be contacted each time this information is distributed as described above.

Parent / Legal

Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# “Together We’re Better” 2011-2012 Elementary Class Poster Contest Entry Form

**Deadline: DECEMBER**

*Entries will not be accepted after this date.* Please fill out completely and FIRMLY attach this form to the back of your class poster submission.

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation Statement of activities conducted during “October - Disability History & Awareness Month”:  
(include separate page if more space is needed.)

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By signing this form, the teacher gives The Arc Maryland, Inc. permission to use your information and class poster at their discretion to publicize and promote the class poster contest and inclusive lives. \*

**Signature of Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

*\* If photographs of children are used, please have each student’s parent/legal guardian sign a release (see Photo Release Form included in this package) and submit with the entry. Failure to do so may disqualify the entry.*

*Please do not write in this box. Official use only.*

**ENTRY NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE RECEIVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**JUDGE’S SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_