

TOGETHER WE'RE BETTER

By: Samantha Krumbhaar

I am currently a middle school in Anne Arundel County. I have known a friend with special needs since the beginning of elementary school. I feel that I have a good idea about what a child with disabilities faces everyday, because of the close relations that I continue to have with one.

Schools that include others with special needs are very important. They give other kids with disabilities the opportunity to succeed, learn, and interact with each other. The schools usually provide special help for the kids that need it. Children that are disabled can talk to or in some way communicate and make friends with other children that are like them and some that are not. Schools that include others that are disabled allow them to function in an environment that is universal to all.

Every child with or without disabilities can enter in after school activities and clubs. They can become active members in society. Children with disabilities can feel valued by winning scholastic achievements and many other awards. This way they can feel confident and succeed more in everything. Today there are many ways to help the disabled. I feel that it is important that every child is treated equally and given the same opportunities.

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By: Catherine Premraj

Inclusive schools are schools that offer inclusive education. This type of education is very important in our communities. They reject segregation and seek to maximize the participation of students of all abilities and disabilities. Recent studies have shown that kids who are excluded from general education feel resentful, hurt, isolated, and ashamed. Children that are included feel proud, comfortable, liked, and accepted. The chance is all they need and if you give it to them, then you will know for yourself how good it feels. It is important that inclusion exist in our society because all students excel in at least one thing, and to deprive from them the opportunity of showing the world that they are great at something just because they have a disability is cruel.

All students of various abilities and disabilities are a part of the general education society. They all have something that makes them capable of learning, excelling, and growing. It is your job to give them the education they need to prosper in life and they have the right to demand education from you. Children with disabilities are just like us, most of them are even smarter than us. If we don't accept them as who they are, one of us, then who can they turn to? They have the right to learn just like the rest of us. If we put them in "special education" classes, they will feel isolated and resentful. Most of them deserve to be in higher level classes than us so why not at least give them the chance of being in general education classes and make everyone's life easier.

My school is actually an inclusive school; segregation does not exist there. In my class, we have an autistic child; we make him feel very valued and respected. We do not isolate him from any activities because of his disability. He is a very bright child and feels good that he has the opportunity to interact with other kids, instead of being stuffed up in one room and learning alone. If you were to come to our school and see him, you would know how much happier he is in a regular classroom than the autism room. It is not just the teachers, the students in my school also welcome and support children with and without disabilities.