

As I am a senior on my way to college, I thought that I would take the initiative and finally get to know everyone in my school that I have not had the chance to know before. I want to leave high school remembering all my friends and experiences and the challenges that will help me seek a greater future. Except I found a problem; there were some students that I had not known, students that were not in my everyday classes, students that have the ability to change others lives, those students are the special needs students. So with the help of some teachers and friends, I am willing to change their high school experience as well.

One of the most important clubs that our school has to offer is Peer Support. While being President of this club, I had the chance to work with some of the special needs students and get to know them even better. That day when we got to spend much time together, made me realize how special each one of them truly is. Something that surprised me was how most of them compete in the New York Empire Games, something that I have never heard of before. Realizing how important these games are to these students, and then finding out that this event was cancelled, absolutely broke my heart. I knew that there was such an event as the Special Olympics, which continues 365 days a year, and there had to be some way for our students to get involved. I would take this into my own hands, and make sure they all got the chance to compete and play.

I had the chance to speak with teachers and principals of my school, and they all encouraged me to gather many students and bring them to the Special Olympic Games in upcoming April. The students that participate from our school never had any fans supporting them at their games, which is the main reason for me getting this plan together. My goal is to bring 40+ students as well as teachers and cheer on our participants, as any other student would at a sponsored high school game. With the help of my fellow classmates and my teachers, we will now make this a tradition at Kings Park High School. All of the students will be attending and volunteering their time to help direct the games as well as the teachers becoming coaches for the players. We will work hard during school time as well as after school training these students to make them the best possible athletes.

I am so fortunate to have such a compassionate school district that is behind me 100%. Bringing all of the students in high school together has been a goal of mine, and I feel that this is just one step closer. I hope to learn much from these kids and help them in any challenge that they might face in the future. They have become good friends as well as motivators towards my goals as well. They helped me understand that as long as I put my heart into anything, I can accomplish all that I wish to. Watching them learn and succeed at what they do, has made me become such a greater person. Its amazing how just a couple of people can truly change your life, and with an experience such as this one, they have truly changed mine.