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Gold Award: Project Inclusion

The issue

As a senior at Sand Creek, I want to improve the school/community that I cherish. While Sand Creek is a good school with a big community I see one major issue. This being the connection between the general education population and the special education population. Since I have a special needs brother I have been able to see the gap between the two populations. Oftentimes the general education population does not understand the special education population and from this lack of understanding stems a very negative stigma. This stigma has made it harder to connect the two populations and will only worsen over time.

Solution

The simplest solution to remove the stigma and connect the two populations is to help the general education population to understand the special education population. The solution will be found in educating the general education population about our special education population. This will create a better understanding of each other and allow strong relationships to be formed.

Program overview

Project Inclusion is a developed program that will introduce the general education population to the special educational population in Sand Creek. This project would allow parents/students in the SPED department to fill out information about their student/themself. Which will be sent back to the school and formatted using templates. The special needs students profile will be uploaded to the Sand Creek website or a website Sand Creek students have access to. These profiles can be viewed by students on their own or it can be viewed in a class setting through advisory or alternate courses. The parents/students would choose to participate or not, all information is voluntary. They would also get to choose what they are comfortable with filling out.

The project would be implemented into Sand Creek first. The directors would be able to put the program in at any time in the year and be able to add students at any point.

Goals

1. The goal of this project is to introduce the special education population to the general education population to help remove the stigma around the special education population.
2. Create a inclusive and understanding community at Sand Creek
3. Expand the program over time to introduce the 'Creek Nation' to incoming freshmen