

“Engaging My Community”

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If I were Mayor, I would begin a Community Peer Buddy program. Community Peer buddies would be high schoolers who would be trained by special education teachers and psychologists in the school. They would be trained how to help kids with disabilities, such as: autism, seizure problems, or other mental or physical problems. The kids they helped would be preschool to middle school age. The buddies would help these kids to join in and get involved in activities such as: soccer, baseball, art classes, music classes and dance classes. A peer could go to the library with them, go to the park or help them with homework. During the summer the buddy could go to camp with the child.

This is important to me because I have a brother that has social problems and needs special help for getting involved in activities. This would be great for him because he would not only make a friend but also get the exercise he needs. Instead of sitting home playing on the computer. It would be good for high schoolers because they could use for their community service credits but also it would teach them that people with disabilities are not as different as you might think. And who knows, maybe they would make a friend too.

We would get High Schoolers involved by putting flyers up around the high schools and let their counselors know at school. You could let families of kids with disabilities know by posting in the city of Gaithersburg activity guide, through the recreational centers and through elementary schools and pre-schools.