

## Haverford High School to Receive National Recognition from Special Olympics for Achievements with Inclusion

Haverford High School is the First School from Delaware County and the  $7^{th}$  in Pennsylvania to receive this National Honor

(Norristown, PA, November 4, 2019) – Haverford High School, a Special Olympics Pennsylvania Unified Champion School, will host a special banner presentation to acknowledge the School's national recognition for its outstanding efforts to provide inclusive sports and activities for students with and without disabilities. The celebration will be hosted on Friday, November 8 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at Haverford High School, located at 200 Mill Road, Havertown PA.

The celebration will feature cheering students, remarks from Matt Aaron, Special Olympics President & CEO, Carole Clancy, Director of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pete Donaghy, Principal of Haverford High School, and two students with intellectual disabilities (ID) who participate in the school's unified sports program. The remarks will be followed by a "teachers vs. students" bocce game and the unveiling of the 2019 National Unified Champion School Banner.

More than 150 schools are currently participating in Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools programming in Pennsylvania and more than 5,000 schools across the country engaged in the program. The school is receiving this honor as a result of meeting national standards of excellence in the areas of inclusion, advocacy and respect, which places it among a select number of schools to receive this distinction. The Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools model is supported by the Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education. More information can be found on the Special Olympics Pennsylvania website here.

**WHO:** Matt Aaron, President & CEO, Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Carole Clancy, Director, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Pete Donaghy, Principal of Haverford High School

Students with and without ID who participate in the school's unified sports program

WHEN: Friday, November 8, 2019

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Haverford High School

200 Mill Road, Havertown PA.

**<u>DETAILS:</u>** A Unified Champion School receiving <u>national banner recognition</u> is one that has

demonstrated commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 national standards of excellence.

The primary activities within these standards include: <a href="Interscholastic Unified">Interscholastic Unified</a>
<a href="Sports">Sports</a> (where students with and without disabilities train and compete as teammates), <a href="Inclusive Youth Leadership">Inclusive Youth Leadership</a> and <a href="Whole-School Engagement">Whole-School Engagement</a>. These

standards were developed by a national panel of leaders from Special Olympics and the

education community.

## **Media Contacts:**

## MEDIA ALERT 11/8/19



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## About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information about how you can join "The Inclusion Revolution," visit <a href="https://www.specialolympicspa.org">www.specialolympicspa.org</a>.

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