# **Elementary through High School: A Journey towards Inclusion**

### Agenda

- Banyan Elementary
- Aspen Elementary
- Sequoia Middle School
- Westlake High School

## Banyan Elementary School

Autism Specialized Program 2023-2024



### **Current Program**

- TK-1 and 2-5.
- Program designed to give students genuine access to General education while providing behavior and academic supports in the special education setting.
- Primary class also uses older peer models in our Autism Ambassador Program.
- Creating a school culture where everyone feels like they belong and where ALL students can share their strengths and get support when they need it.



#### Goals for the Future



Create more inclusive spaces on campus that allow sensory needs to be met.

More co-taught opportunitiesexpanding the program to 3 classes

**Unified Sports** 

Continue to improve facilities



# Year one in review



- A culture rooted in the idea that EVERY student at Aspen is OUR student!
- Unified Champion School
- Language and Learning specialized program centered on inclusivity to support students in their least restrictive environment.
- Co-taught classrooms in Transition Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and First Grade.
- Specialist classes to enrich learning for ALL students including Art, Library Dance, PE, Music, and 3rd Grade Wander and Wonder













- Inclusion and equity are at the forefront of discussions and decision making at Staff Meetings, School Site Council, and PFA.
- 24% percent of students at Aspen have an IEP.
- LRE (% of students in general education setting for 80% or more)
  - o 2019: 39%
  - o 2024: 55%
- Partnership with CRPD to provide inclusive/structured recess and Young Athletes PE for TK/K.
- Conejo Oaks Academy students are educational aides with TK/K twice a week.





#### **Our Vision**

It is our vision to value the whole child and empower all students to reach their full potential academically, socially, physically, and emotionally in order to positively impact themselves and the world around them.



#### **Special Olympics Unified Champion School**

#### **Inclusive Leadership Team**



#### **Young Athletes Program**



#### **Whole School Engagement**









**Co-Teaching** 





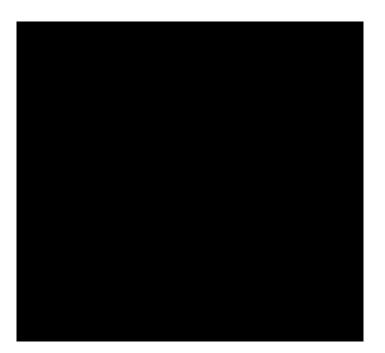








#### **Student Voices**











### Life Management is...

Elective for students in Gen Ed & our Specialized Programs

Co-taught by Kristen
Maturo, Jennifer
Carpenter (LEAP), and
Katie Jan (AUT)

An answer to the need for more inclusion opportunities for students in the specialized programs



### Video from Digital Production



https://youtu.be/0G2jn0hcmRk?si=iZCduI5O1J6EtNOf

# In Life Management students will learn how to...

Work with others in a supportive environment

Increase leadership skills



Improve and manage their social emotional skills



### Vision:



To instill compassion & responsibility, empower a love for and success in learning & support the wellbeing of ALL students as they become productive members of Sequoia & society!





Safe Welcoming

Supportive



Accepting Fun!

### Some feedback from students

"I'm so glad
Mrs. D created this class.
It lets people know about all the different students at Sequoia and makes everyone feel more welcome and included."

-Natalia Pantoja

"Students come in every day with smiles on their faces to learn new viewpoints & get to work with amazing people & help them better understand the world, while also understanding the world better themselves."

-Brody Kennett "Being a mentor was really fun because I got to do projects with students who needed a little extra help."

-Cailin Miller



"We are so glad we got to be mentors and we plan to continue working with our "buddies" in high school 8 on the Sparkles cheer team." -Isis Seymour-Smith & Gabi Serrao "This class was a very special chance to meet & work with very special people with different abilities."

-Erick Valencia



#### And parents...

i wanted to say that Life Management is unbelievable, and Zoie loves that class more than anything. Honestly, it's all we hear her talk about. And now she's been eating lunch with her life management peers. All this to say, thank you for spearheading this amazing class. It is beneficial in so many ways! We are incredibly proud of Zoie for her hard work in Life Management this year. But honestly, it goes beyond that. I see something different in her eyes when she talks about her classmates. It is definitely special, and we want to foster that!

- Cory Hill (Zoie Nawrocki's parent)

Aidan and I were just talking about outdoor school. He said how much he loved seeing [his friends from Life Management] and spending time with them there. I love how happy Aidan gets when he talks about it. We both said how special they are and he told me he just loves being in the class and working with them. I just wanted to let you know and also say that I think this is the most amazing class and I think every student would benefit in being in it. I hope this class is offered for many years to come. Thanks again for giving this opportunity to Aidan, it means so much,

-Robyn Graham (Aidan's mom)





Inclusion is Great for <u>ALL</u> Students!

- Unified Sports
  - Basketball, Soccer, Bocce
  - Each high school hosts one event a year
  - Introduced March Madness this year

# Unified Sports





### Westlake High School



- How have we focused on Inclusion?
  - LRE Information
    - 16/17 CVUSD 39.9%, 23/24 CVUSD 53.5%
    - 23/24 WHS 48.1%
  - Co-Teaching
    - Increased from 2 sections in 21-22 to 17 sections in 24-25
  - Inclusion Toolkit Integration
  - Provide opportunities throughout campus in classes, clubs, athletics, & activities



### **Inclusion Around Campus**



#### Sparkles Cheer



Theatre, Choir, Electives



Warrior Joe







# Everyone Brings Something Special to our Campus







