

Pathways to Inclusion

High School students outreach to students with special needs
A Character Education Partnership (CEP) Promising Practice

Cranford High School
Cranford, New Jersey

Focusing on Principles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 of CEP's 11 Principles as high school students' experience "character" comprehensively, link core values to strategies to lead activities, building a caring community through moral action in an engaging project that develops intrinsic motivation, student leadership and connections to the broader community.

Grade Levels: 9-12



Pathways to Inclusion is a student-created program which partners high school students with special-needs children. It is a wonderful opportunity for children of all abilities and disabilities to work together. High school students recognized that special-needs children were lacking the social opportunities afforded to many of their schoolmates. The high school students receive training to work with children with disabilities. This

training also involved a great deal of research. After the training, the students met collaboratively with district staff and parents to identify the particular needs of these children and began to develop programs accordingly. The programs involve activities such as bowling, dance, soccer, board games, etc. for the community's children, whose disability prohibits participation in most of the present recreation programs. The parents are glad to see the progress their children have made with social expectations and skill development and the high school students recognize their research and service benefits the special-needs children.

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