



Monte Vista Elementary  
11121 S 2700 W  
South Jordan, UT 84095

9/5/25

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to announce the second year of our United Champions Program. The Unified Champions Program was created by Special Olympics to build a school community of social inclusion for students of all abilities. If you are receiving this letter, your child was specifically nominated by their teacher and/or other staff at Monte Vista Elementary, or has requested to participate in the Unified Champion Program.

The Unified Champions Program will be implemented as follows:

- Students will hold the title “Junior Ambassador” (k-2). The use of Junior Ambassadors is new to our program. The hope is that we will be able to provide reverse inclusion opportunities in which the students will push into the Monte Vista STAR classes. We would also like to provide opportunities for intramural sports where students are able to learn how to include peers of all ability levels.
- 3-6 grade Students will be given various opportunities, depending on their assigned roles within the program. Some ambassadors will be paired with a mentee and go into the STAR classes at chosen times to strengthen relationships with students of different abilities so they have familiar faces on the playground and in their classes when they attend rotations, school-wide activities and when they mainstream into your child’s classroom. Others may be given opportunities to volunteer at agreed upon times in the STAR class or as peer mentors for students in the school. Lastly, it is the hope that these students will have an opportunity to participate in intramural sports, again learning important skills of including peers of all abilities in play.
- Field trip and guest speaker opportunities is a hope, but is still in its planning phases. We will inform parents as we have more information about these opportunities.
- Sports Day: Our STAR class students participate in a “sports day” at the end of the year, sponsored by Special Olympics. As part of our ambassador program, we would like to invite chosen ambassadors to attend this event with the STAR class as a year end celebration that brings all they have been learning together to celebrate the many abilities in our school. Some of our ambassadors will accompany their UC athlete “buddy” and others may be asked to come and represent and cheer for their school athletes.

- All students identified as ambassadors will be given the opportunity to participate in leading assemblies and monthly UC ambassador meetings as outlined on the provided calendar.

Please understand that the focus of our scheduled groups is supporting outlined skills only (See attached) and how they relate to the Unified Champions Program, and Portrait of a Graduate. Should more private matters come up with your student as we get to know them, we will contact you for appropriate permissions related to any counseling or other support necessary at that time.

We would love the opportunity to include your child in this opportunity and are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please contact Lisa Stillman at 801-254-8040 extension 14681 or by email: [lisa.stillman@jordandistrict.org](mailto:lisa.stillman@jordandistrict.org) with any questions you may have. If you would like your child to participate in the Unified Champions Program, please sign, date and return the below permission form..

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to a wonderful and inclusive school year!

Lisa Stillman, MS  
School Psychologist

Melissa Gutierrez, LCSW  
School Counselor

Erin Nester, MA  
Wellness Specialist