



Honeoye Falls - Lima School District
20 Church Street, Honeoye Falls, New York 14472



**Collaborative Organization of Parents and Educators
(COPE)**

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April 4, 2007

Dear Parents,

There is an exciting opportunity coming for students with disabilities in our district. We want to let you know of this opportunity that may be of interest to you and your child.

Peggy Wehs, the Adaptive Physical Education Teacher for HFL is starting a Special Olympics team for students with disabilities within our district. In the past, families have had to travel to Webster or Irondequoit in order for their child to be part of a Special Olympics team. Until now, there were no teams in our immediate area. Participation in Special Olympics events is based on the student's interest and can include Basketball, Swimming, Floor Hockey, Bowling, Weight Lifting and Track and Field. The events are great fun and are not at all competitive. In fact, everyone leaves the event with a ribbon or a medal and feeling like a winner! Even if your child chooses not to participate in the event, the practices for these events provide much needed physical fitness and socialization. Special Olympics allow children with disabilities an opportunity to join a sports team, much like their peers without disabilities.

To be eligible to participate in Special Olympics, athletes must be at least 8 years old and identified by an agency or professional as having one of the following conditions: intellectual disability; a cognitive delay as determined by standardized measures such as intelligence quotient or other generally accepted measures; or a closely related development disability, i.e., functional limitations in both general learning and adaptive skills. There is no cost to participate in Special Olympics.

Anyone interested in assisting Peggy by becoming an assistant coach or volunteer is invited to attend training on April 18 at 5:00 in the High School A Gym. Assistant coaches must be 18 years of age or older. Other volunteers are needed to help with practices and events. These volunteers must be 13 years of age or older. Perhaps siblings or friends would like to volunteer. Peggy is also working with HFL's volunteer coordinator to get students involved as volunteers.

Practices for the HFL Special Olympics Track and Field Team are scheduled to start May 7th, and will be held every Monday 6:30-7:30 PM on the High School track or in the Manor gym. The Track and Field Team will take part in a competition on June 2nd at RIT.

We are having an informational meeting about Special Olympics at our next COPE meeting. Peggy Wehs will be there to share information about the program. The meeting will be held on April 23rd at 7:00 pm in the Middle School Library. Come to hear about this incredible opportunity for your child. We are so lucky that Peggy has agreed to take on the coaching responsibility for our team. We hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

The COPE Steering Committee