

OVERVIEW OF PEER TO PEER

By: Ashli Malone

FACTS AND STATISTICS

- ◆ Autism now affects 1 in 88 children and 1 in 54 boys.
- ◆ 46,939 children born per year will have autism.
- ◆ It is the fastest growing developmental disability.
- ◆ Over 40% of children with autism have been bullied at school.
- ◆ There is no medical cure for autism.
- ◆ 129 children are diagnosed with ASD daily.
- ◆ Every 11 minutes a child is born who will soon be diagnosed with some form of autism.

What This Class Is All About?

In this program you learn a very valuable lesson: No one should be left out. Your job is to make the student feel included. You are assigned to work with a friend, you bring them to your designated class, and make them feel included. You learn to relate to people with different needs. You'll receive academic credit for this class. It looks well on college applications and provides a great hands-on experience.

History of Peer-to-Peer

Peer-to-Peer did not use to be as popular as it was. It started with only about 4 autistic students and there was not a set group of peer friends. Mrs. Richie (a teacher that used to work at St. Joseph High School) would let a student come in her class from time to time or every so often a couple of her students would come into the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Classroom. It took a lot for Ms. Hicock, (Autism Consultant and trainer) Mrs. Wagner, (St. Joseph High School Counselor) and, Mr. Rappette (Peer-to-Peer teacher) to make this program happen. We now have to put a cap on the people that want to join this class. It's a great cause and it's something worth being apart of. These peer friends have some insight for you:

Peer Friend: Logan O' Toole

My most memorable moment of being a peer friend is when we went on the bowling trip. Some of the kids were losing and some were surprisingly good, but it was the fact that the peer friends came that made them happy.



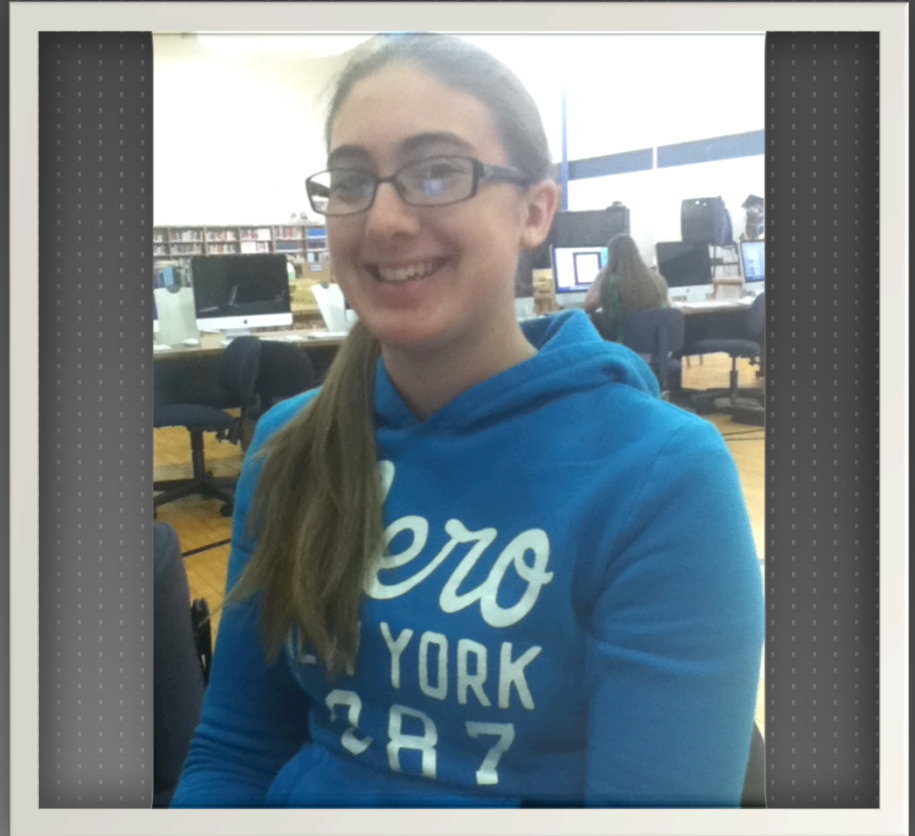
Peer Friend: Heather Kirby

Being a peer friend helped me overcome my fears of talking to someone with autism. I heard about this class through some of my friends and I'm happy I joined.



Peer Friend: Leah McQuone

The biggest challenge that has come along while being in Peer to Peer is communication with the other peer friends who work with the same student and the student himself. Alec—the student—is very good at selecting words to repeat from a question so it sounds like he's answering them. I have a hard time figuring out if he truly understands.



Peer Friend: Payton Brock

Later in life I can see myself working with students who are autistic. Through this experience I've learned a lot about ASD and I would love to continue to help those with ASD for the rest of my life.



Peer Friend: Alyssa Scheppler

Taking this class I learned to be patient,
it's people out there that need more
help and it's okay to lend a helping hand.
I've learned from the students that they
have a hard time accepting change and
that they're used to a schedule.



Peer Friend: Jovon Meridy

- The advice I would leave for next year students is, if you like working with kids then this is the class for you. Even though they're autistic it's still a great class. They're just different from us that's all. Autism is not what they are it's something that's apart of them.



Feeling Interested? Here's How You Join!

- ▶ See the guidance office for an application.
- ▶ Set up and interview with the peer-to-peer teacher.
- ▶ Fill Out Your Application.
- ▶ Get Ready to Make a Difference.

JOIN TODAY!

