



BBK Bulletin

Editor's Note

Hello Keller Families!

First, a heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the students, families, and staff who have been a part of our inaugural year. This year has been an unqualified success and has far exceeded all of our expectations.

What has become apparent throughout the year is the tremendous depth of compassion, empathy, and advocacy students in Franklin possess. With this in mind, we have decided to expand the chapter to include incoming 3rd graders for the 2016-2017 school year.

Also, due to the high level of interest last year, we will be adding a Promoters group to Keller. All interested students will participate in the June Workshop and will be given a choice of being a part of Best Buddies Team (previously known as a "Family") or Best Buddies Promoters. There will still only be a small number of openings for students who wish to participate on a Team, but all students who demonstrate an interest will be invited to become a part of the promoters group if not selected for a Team. This group will be organizing and attending special events that promote advocacy and awareness of the disability rights movement.

Thanks for reading and if you choose not to read, thanks for recycling!

Stephanie L. Geddes
Assistant Director of Special Education

"A friend is a gift you give yourself."

-Robert Louis Stevenson



Possible Kid FAQs & Parent Talking Points

What is a Best Buddies friendship?

Best Buddies helps to make friendships between you (the Peer Buddy) and your Buddy. A friendship is when two people get to know each other by talking and spending time with each other. Your friendship will grow when you and your Buddy (your new friend) spend time together and do things that you both enjoy.

What will I have to do?

There will be a workshop in June to learn more. Once school is back in session for the 2016-2017 school year, there will be a meeting once a month after school for students who are a part of Best Buddies Keller Families. If you are matched with a Buddy, you will have to meet up with him/her once a month outside of school and talk to him/her once a week either in or out of school.



Schedule for the rest of the year

March 8th ALL

2:45 - 3:45 PM

April 12th ALL

2:45 - 3:45 PM

May 10th Peer Buddies only

2:45 - 3:30 PM

June 14th ALL

2:45 - 3:45 PM



Reminder:

A few requirements for BBK Promoters

As a Best Buddies Keller Promoter participant:

- I understand that I will attend chapter activities, assemblies, and Best Buddies events and that my conduct should always promote the mission of Best Buddies.
- I understand that I am responsible for arranging transportation after school when a meeting is held.
- I understand that as a Promoter it is my responsibility to promote advocacy and bring awareness about the disability rights movement.

Possible Kid FAQs & Parent Talking Points Continued

What would I do with my Buddy?

You can do anything that you and your Buddy both like to do and mom and dad agree to.

Will I be matched with a Buddy?

In June, students will be selected to participate in BBK Teams based upon their participation in the workshop. From those selected, a handful of students will then be selected as potential 1:1 Buddies based upon gender and similar interest areas, which will be announced during at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year.

What is Best Buddies Promoters?

Students in this group will meet once a month to organize special events at Keller that promote advocacy and awareness of disability rights.

Reminder:

A few requirements for BBK Teams

As a Best Buddies Keller Team participant:

- I understand that if I am matched in a one-to-one friendship, the commitment includes meeting together outside of school once a month and making weekly contact during the school year.
- I understand that I will attend chapter activities, assemblies, and Best Buddies events and that my conduct should always promote the mission of Best Buddies.
- I understand that I am responsible for arranging transportation after school when a meeting is held.