August 4, 2022

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Dear [Parent/Guardian name],

Congratulations! Your student has expressed interest in becoming involved with Best Buddies at [School Name]! Best Buddies International is a nonprofit 501© (3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

**What to Expect**

Best Buddies’ Friendship Programs offer opportunities for students with and without IDD to come together and build meaningful connections while creating a more inclusive school community. Within a Best Buddies chapter, students are invited to participate in monthly group activities and can choose to be matched in one-to-one friendships between students with and without disabilities. These ‘buddy pairs’ spend time together and communicate – over phone/text, social media, or in school – at least once a week and are encouraged to spend time together twice per month – during school, at a chapter event, or in the community. Though community-based activities are not required, we encourage buddy pairs to connect outside of school in order to form deeper, more meaningful connections. The Best Buddies chapter also offers a variety of inclusive leadership opportunities with officer roles focused on planning meaningful events, building social connections, and spreading the mission of Best Buddies across its school and community.

While there is no cost to join a Best Buddies Chapter, some activities may require a fee to participate. Most are offered free of charge or are paid for through chapter fundraising efforts or financial support of the school administration. Monthly activities may take place during school hours, in the evenings or on weekends based on student availability. The chapter officer team and advisors will determine the times and frequency of meetings and events.

**How to Join**

All students must complete a membership application to participate in Best Buddies. The form collects contact information as well as parent/caregiver consent for participation. The membership application is available online at [bestbuddies.org/join](http://www.bestbuddies.org/join).

**Learn More**

To find out more about Best Buddies, please visit [bestbuddies.org/bbu](http://www.bestbuddies.org/bbu). There you will find an online resource library which provides a wealth of information about our mission and programs. If you are interested in being more involved, please e-mail [Advisor Name, Phone Number & Email Address] to learn how you can best support the Best Buddies program at [School Name]!

Thank you for supporting your student’s participation in building a kind and inclusive culture at [School Name]!

In friendship,

[Signature]

[Printed Name]

[Title]