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# Best Buddies International

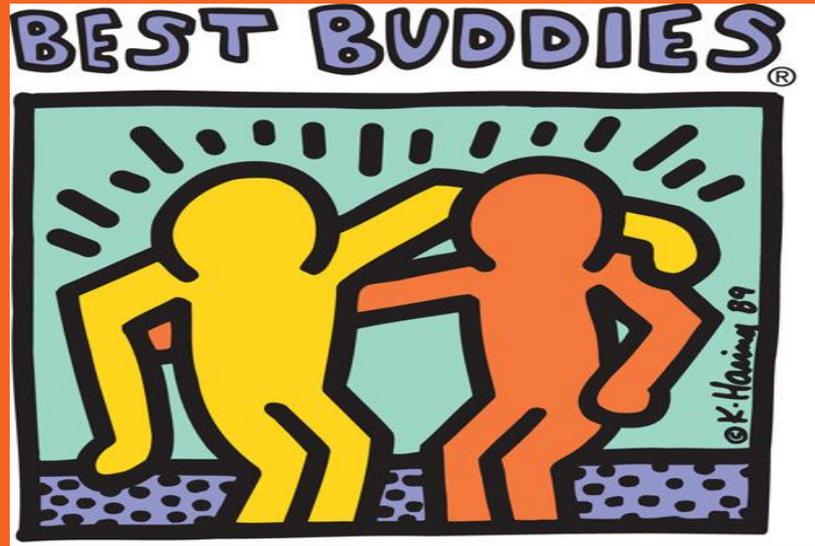


Stoughton High School Chapter

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# What is Best Buddies International?



Best Buddies<sup>®</sup> is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

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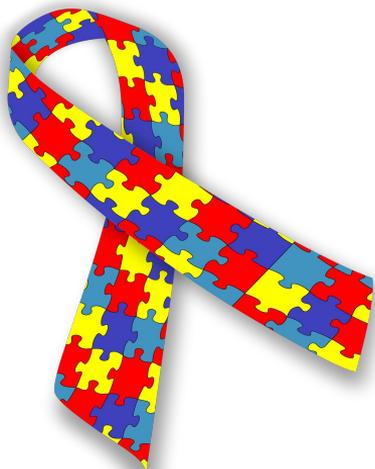
# History of buddies club in Stoughton

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Buddies Club began approximately 10 years ago. The club was created by a student who was a sophomore. She expressed the interest in connecting students with disabilities with the general education population. From that moment on the club has been student driven and has expanded to include middle school students.

The one of the current advisors for the buddies club and teacher for SHS substantially sub-separate program, worked tirelessly with the team at Best Buddies. The end result was SHS becoming an official chapter of Best Buddies International. The chapter remains student driven and is expanding exponentially.

# Why is this club important?



<https://www.autismspeaks.org/blog/2016/04/01/cdc%E2%80%99s-new-update-autism-what-you-need-know>

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*Which children were more likely to be identified with ASD?*

Boys were 4.5 times more likely to be identified with ASD than girls.



White children were more likely to be identified with ASD than black or Hispanic children. Black children were more likely to be identified with ASD than Hispanic children.

**1.2x**  
MORE LIKELY among white vs  
black children

**1.5x**  
MORE LIKELY among white vs  
Hispanic children

**1.3x**  
MORE LIKELY among black vs  
Hispanic children

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# Who's in Best Buddies?

In Best Buddies, people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), such as autism and Down syndrome, come together to form friendships and a community that celebrates their diversity of character and abilities. Best Buddies does not require members to divulge any diagnoses or conditions to participate. You must be at least 10 years old to join a Best Buddies program. Please note: specific age requirements per program are listed below.

**Schools**

**Citizens**

**e-Buddies**

**Jobs**

**Ambassadors**

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# Best Buddies Leadership at SHS

**Special Education Advisor (SEA) Special Education Teacher** - a member of the middle/high school faculty who serves in the special education department and acts as a liaison between the chapter and special education classroom by providing ongoing information, education, and training with regard to the social integration of students with IDD.

**Faculty Advisor (FA) School Adjustment Counselor** - a member of the school faculty or full-time staff who serves as a liaison between the school administration and the chapter, providing support to the student leaders and chapter members throughout the year.

**Chapter President (CP)** - a full-time student who organizes, leads, and maintains an active chapter of Best Buddies for the duration of one academic year.

**Vice President (VP)** - a member of the officer corps in a high school/college chapter who plans, supervises, and evaluates all chapter activities and program initiatives, including Best Buddies Month, Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day and Spread the Word to End the Word activities. Match.

**Buddy Director (BD)** - an individual with an IDD who works closely with the chapter leadership to ensure the full participation of all buddies in their chapter.

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**Treasurer** – a member of the officer corps in a high school/college chapter who prepares and monitors the chapter budget, ensuring there is enough funds for chapter dues and chapter activities.

**Secretary** –a member of the officer corps in a high school/college chapter who completes chapter forms/resources required by the school and/or BBI and reviews monthly friendship updates on each

**Parent advisor (PA)**– PA’s primary function is to serve as a liaison between chapter leadership and chapter members’ parents. The PA must be a parent/guardian of a member involved in the Best Buddies chapter.

**Buddy** – a volunteer with an IDD who is paired in a one-to-one friendship with a person without an IDD. (Must be 18 years or older if participating in a college chapter or citizens program.)

**Buddy pair** – two people, one with IDD and one without IDD, matched in a Best Buddies friendship.

**Peer buddy** – a volunteer without an IDD from a school chapter who is paired in a one-to-one friendship with a person with an IDD. (Must attend the school of the Best Buddies chapter, or must be 18 years or older for the citizens program.)

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# Jack Mayor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il0ImpvEIGY>

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# Parents

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4x3n95uu9qA&t=15s>

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# Annual Chapter Goal

## People First Language

People first language recognizes that individuals with disabilities are—first and foremost—people. It emphasizes each person’s value, individuality, dignity, and capabilities.

When choosing words to use about people with disabilities, refer to the person first, not the disability. A person with an intellectual or developmental disability should not be described as a “disabled person.” Best Buddies and its members use “a person with an intellectual or developmental disability” instead. By doing this, we place the emphasis on the person, not the disability.

By using people first language, we are helping to eliminate the negative stereotypes and limitations that others often ascribed to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The following examples provide guidance on what terms to use and which ones to avoid when talking or writing about people with disabilities.

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# Examples of People First Language

## Instead of:

The handicapped or disabled.  
He's mentally retarded.  
She's autistic.  
He's Down's.  
She's learning disabled.  
He's a quadriplegic/crippled.  
She's a dwarf/midget.  
He's emotionally disturbed/mentally ill.  
She's confined/wheelchair bound.  
He's in special ed.  
She's developmentally delayed.  
Normal or healthy kids.  
Is non-verbal.  
Birth defect  
Brain damaged  
Handicapped parking, hotel room, etc.  
She has problems/special needs.

## Say:

People with disabilities.  
He has an intellectual disability.  
She has autism (or an autism diagnosis).  
He has a diagnosis of Down syndrome.  
She has a learning disability (diagnosis).  
He has a physical disability (diagnosis).  
She's of short stature/she's a little person.  
He has a mental health diagnosis.  
She uses a wheelchair/mobility chair.  
He receives special ed services.  
She has a developmental delay.  
Kids without disabilities.  
Communicates with her eyes/device/etc.  
Congenital disability  
Brain injury  
Accessible parking, hotel room, etc.  
She needs . . . or she uses . . .

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# Next Steps:

Student Leadership  
Board

Promoting Membership

Eunice Kennedy Shriver  
Day

Fundraising

Student Led Activities

Spread the Word to End  
the Word

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