



JUST LIKE ME

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

This year your child will participate in "Just Like Me", a program that has been part of the Wayland curriculum for over 20 years. It teaches children awareness and acceptance of people with differences through a series of learning activities that help them understand what it is like to live with a disability and by meeting real people with these disabilities.

The "Just Like Me" units are run by unit leaders, volunteers who maintain the unit's content, train volunteers, introduce the unit in each classroom, and oversee the presentations to students. Most of the JLM class time is spent in small group activities led by additional volunteers. When you agree to be part of the Just Like Me Program, your obligation consists of an hour-long evening training and 90-minutes in the classroom where you will lead different small groups of students through the same activity.

This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to participate in their children's school learning and to be part of an important program. The success of "Just Like Me" depends entirely on its volunteers. Participation is fun and rewarding. Please, join us!

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

UNITS IN GRADE 3

DEAFNESS/HARD OF HEARING
BLINDNESS/LOW VISION

UNITS IN GRADE 4

PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS
INTELLECTUAL LIMITATIONS
LEARNING DISABILITIES
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Just Like Me Program Overview

There are six JLM units spread across the 3rd and 4th grades. The first two units are taught in the spring of third grade; in fourth grade the last four units are presented from October through March.

Each unit is taught to one class at a time in a 90-minute morning period. After an introduction to the content, the class is broken up into small groups that rotate through the volunteer-led activities. At a later time during the week, an individual with that disability speaks to the children and answers questions. Through these hands-on activities and speakers, students are given an opportunity to understand what it might be like to live with a disability, and they come to realize the importance of respect and friendship to every child, regardless of his or her differences.

Grade 3 Units

Deafness/Hard of Hearing (directed by Kathy Finch)

Children learn about hearing loss, sound waves, and communication methods for people who cannot hear. Students become familiar with American Sign Language, lip reading, and adaptive equipment for people who are deaf.

Blindness and Low Vision (directed by Julie Ellenbogen)

Children learn about the different levels of visual impairment and are exposed to Braille and other aids and appliances that help people with blindness and low vision deal with the challenges of everyday life. Students practice how to help a person who is blind and learn ways to be a friend.

Grade 4 Units

Physical Limitations (directed by Kathy Curtin)

Children learn about issues related to living with physical limitations and have the opportunity to try out assistive devices and adaptive equipment that a person with such a disability may use. The unit helps students develop the sensitivity and understanding to see that the 'person' comes first and that each individual is unique with his/her own strengths and abilities as he/she deals with life with a physical limitation.

Intellectual Limitations (directed by Nancy Carapezza)

Children learn about limitations faced by people with developmental disabilities such as Down Syndrome and experience what it might be like to have difficulty completing easy tasks. Students learn that, like everyone, people with intellectual limitations do learn, want to be self-sufficient, are unique individuals, and want acceptance and friendship.

Learning Disabilities (directed by Suzanne Tiberii)

Children come to understand that, although people with learning disabilities may have difficulty learning in the same way other children do, they are smart and can be successful and learn well with assistance and strategies. Students explore ways to help them and be their friends.

Autism Spectrum Disorders (directed by Patti Arnheim)

Children learn about people with autism and the difficulties they often have with language, communication, reading social cues, and connecting with others. Students gain an understanding of some unusual behaviors and special abilities that people with autism may have.