

Inclusion Makes Us Better

Inclusion is embracing our students and their differences in whatever we do. It creates opportunities to raise disability awareness and empathy. It allows our students to share their gifts. It helps our families make new friends. It makes us better.



**Special
needs class
with a
buddy.**

Students need a calm, secure, and adapted environment. Take small steps, such as walking down the hall toward the room or sitting outside a classroom and listening to what is happening inside.



**Typical class
with a
buddy.**

Buddies help the student learn, socialize, and communicate. Provide tools such as fidgets, noise-canceling headphones, and table-top activities. Allow the student to retreat to the contained classroom if feeling overwhelmed.



**Typical class
without a
buddy.**

These students enjoy being with their peers, have mild behaviors, and participate in activities well. Keep these students on your “radar” and consider not identifying them as part of the special needs program. To help them succeed, arrange for a few friends to interact intentionally.



**Throughout
the church**

Coach your church leaders to welcome those with all abilities into every program. Encourage your special needs families to serve and participate in events together. Maximize reverse-inclusion by encouraging typical families to join your special needs events.