WELCOME TO PALS (Peers As Leaders)

SNAPS – Students Need A Pal

SNAPS/PALS is a support for special needs students educated in the Walled Lake Schools. It is a comprehensive program that supports special needs students in many different settings. A special needs student (SNAP) is paired with a general education student (PAL) who acts as a mentor and advocate. The PAL student consistently broadens the opportunity for the special needs student to socialize, communicate and demonstrate learning competencies. The PAL also models appropriate behaviors and develops their own leadership skills.

A PAL student will be working with a special needs student while under adult supervision during one class period per day. This elective will be open to students in the 10th through 12th grade for 0.5 credits per semester and is considered an elective.

**Expectations:**
★ Follow the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools code of conduct
★ Dress Appropriately
★ Be willing to follow staff direction without hesitation
★ Report to class on time
★ Interact with special needs students for the ENTIRE class hour
★ Sets a positive example for all students
★ Asks permission and has a pass if there is a need to leave class
★ Keep ALL information CONFIDENTIAL
★ Work as a team in the classroom
★ Be honest and straightforward in all situations
★ Maintains personal space and boundaries with all students
★ Models responsible social and academic behaviors

**What will you learn in this class:**
★ Compassion/Empathy for others
★ Professional ethics
★ Effective communication skills
★ Problem solving skills
★ Disability awareness
★ Understanding of human behavior and difference
★ Socialization skills
★ Leadership skills
Assignments:
★ Create a powerpoint presentation on ONE of the following categories:
  * Informational - aspect of mental, emotional, social, (relationships, conflict resolution skills, social media, etc)
  * Interest/Hobby - Hobby that you take part in, would like to be your hobby, a different hobby that others take part in, or letting the class know something that interests you.
  * Motivational/Inspirational - Inspirational story on the following topics: self-care, self-worth, self-esteem, positive thinking, forgiveness/forgiving self/others, Respecting Self/Others, Teens and Social media, BELIEVING in yourself, facing disappointment, etc.
  * Whole Class Activity - Lead the class in a group activity where everyone is included- Obstacle course, Minute to Minute games, Icebreaker, skits, game in gym, etc.
★ Final Exam 1: Write a 2 page paper reflecting on the impact this course has had on you. How the skills you have learned in this class can transfer to other situations.
★ Watch a movie about a person with disabilities
  ○ Movies consist of: Rain Man, I am Sam, Flowers for Algernon, Adam, A beautiful mind, Benny and Joon, The Eight Day, Shine, Radio, Extremely loud and Incredibly close
★ Create a lesson and present to the class
★ Final Exam 2: Write a paper to next year’s A:S telling them the joys and frustrations of being a PAL.

All assignments will be graded according to academic standards including, but not limiting to: Grammar, Sentence structure, Content, Length, ect.

In class assignments include:
⇒ Class Participation
⇒ Leading a team building exercise
⇒ Planning/ implementing outside activities for PALS and SNAPS

Thank you for your consideration –

Mrs. Gagliardi
PLEASE RETURN Completed Application TO C 120 – Mrs. Gagliardi’s room by March 15th

Walled Lake Western High School
P.A.L.S (Peers as Leaders) – S.N.A.P.S (Student Needing A Pal)

Name:
Counselor:
1. I have read the course description for SNAPS/PALS and want to be a mentor because?

2. What skills/personality strengths do you feel you can bring to this program?

3. How might participation in this program offer steps towards your future career goals?
4. What makes you a stand out from all your peers at Western?

Teacher Recommendation and comments:

1:

2:

Parent Signature_____________________________________________________________________________________
I have read the requirements for SNAPS/PALS program at WLWHS and approve of my student participation should he/she be selected.

Student Signature__________________________________________________________
Date: __________________

I have read the requirements for PALS/SNAPS program at WLWHS and agree to them

Please return to C120 - Mrs. Gagliardi
:o) Thank you