

## **Inclusion Matters!**

## What is PIT Crew???

The Sunrise PIT Crew will be modeled after the Peers as Partners in Learning course. This course is normally taught in middle and high schools, so we modified it to fit an elementary structure. This course is created to provide peer support for students with disabilities, while fostering awareness in students without disabilities. This program mutually benefits both the students with and without disabilities by growing them academically, socially, and strengthening their interpersonal skills.

To learn more about the benefits of PIT Crew, please see the video below provided by the Florida Inclusion Network:

## **PIT Crew Video**

To qualify as a Peer Inclusion Team member, the student

- Must be a 4th or 5<sup>th</sup> grader
- Must work well with other students/teachers
- Must be eager to serve others
- Must be reliable and responsible
- Must have good attendance
- Must have no major behavioral issues
- \$20.00 fee for class events and supplies

\*\*\*If a student receives at least 3 discipline incidents or a referral, the child will be removed from PIT Crew\*\*\* As a Peer Inclusion Team member (PIT Crew), the student will be responsible for assisting students with disabilities by

- Being a positive role model
- Assisting students with organization, directions, understanding and completing tasks, and other duties as assigned by the peer's classroom teacher
- Encouraging their peer
- Communicating with teachers regularly

## Structure

PIT Crew may be a semester course or full year course based on interest. Students will meet three days a week, in lieu of specials. This may possibly result in some students not having an Art, Music, or PE class. Therefore, all students who are selected to be in PIT Crew must sign a PE waiver, acknowledging that the student will not meet the 150 minute PE mandate. At the beginning of the PIT Crew course, students will be in a class setting learning about different exceptionalities from lessons provided by the Florida Inclusion Network. As the students become comfortable with the content, they will start to push into VE and ASD Pre-K classrooms.