

Highlighting Abilities

of Students with Disabilities

About Us



Casey Owens

Casey is the Communications Director at Ozark School District. She has 6 years experience in school PR.



Amelia Wigton

Amelia is the Communications Specialist at Ozark School District. She is new to school PR, with nearly 20 years experience in print journalism.

And this is Jeff



Jeff Simpson

Jeff is the Executive Director of Special Services at Ozark School District. He has more than 20 years experience in education.

About Ozark



- Located South of Springfield
- 5,700+ K-12 students
- 9 school buildings
- 850+ employees

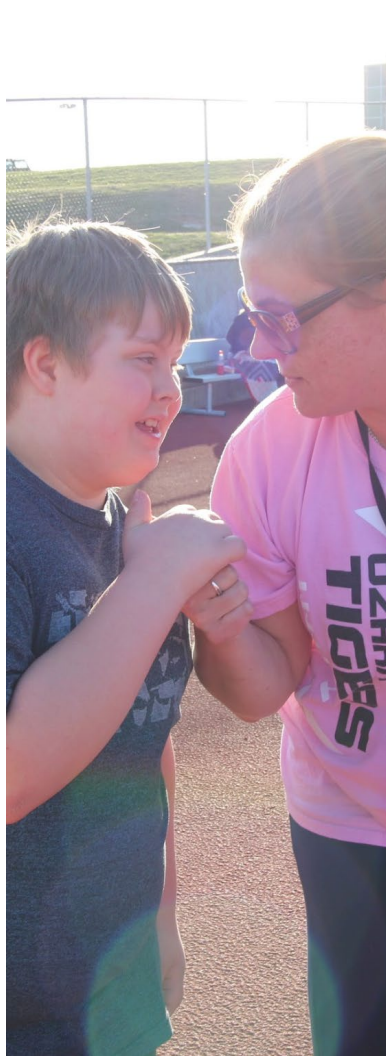


Our Culture

- Special Olympics Buddies
- Special Olympics Competitions
- Coffee Cart
- VIP Guard
- Long Range Planning



Goal is to highlight all our students



Parent Permission - Without it we have nothing

TIP OF THE WEEK: Think twice before posting about students with disabilities on district's social media

- **Obtain parental consent before posting photos of students with disabilities:** Such consent must be a document signed by the parent and must specify the information that may be disclosed, the purpose of the disclosure, and to whom the disclosure may be made. [34 CFR 99.30](#) (b). If staff mistakenly post a photo of a student for whom you have not obtained consent, it's best to be proactive and notify the parents, Haase advised.

[Special Ed Connection](#)



How is this different from directory information?

This is a separate release from the district's directory information policy in that it may inadvertently identify students receiving special services.

[MSBA Policy JO](#)



What does FERPA say?

§ 99.30 Under what conditions is prior consent required to disclose information?

The parent or eligible student shall provide a signed and dated written consent before an educational agency or institution discloses personally identifiable information from the student's education records, except as provided in § 99.31.

The written consent must:

- (1) Specify the records that may be disclosed;
- (2) State the purpose of the disclosure; and
- (3) Identify the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made.

[Special Education Connection](#)

Travel Training Teaches Valuable Life Skills



Ozark High School sophomore Noah Estes said he always looks forward to the travel training trips — partly because he gets to leave school for a field trip, but also because he knows he is learning valuable life skills.

“We’re learning how to navigate the neighborhoods and how to walk out into the world,” he said. “It’s a good program we have here.”

Noah is one of a handful of Ozark High School and Junior High students in functional life skills class who traveled to Battlefield Mall in Springfield Dec. 13 to practice reading a map, budgeting and money skills.

The purpose of the travel training, which also allows students to visit places such as the grocery store, City Utilities Transit Center and Missouri State University campus, is to help students become more independent and confident when they travel in the community.

“This teaches safety in a variety of ways and prepares students for life beyond our school,” OHS special education teacher Erin McElroy said. “Students become experts at traveling on the bus and in the community, and it gives them a leg up for college or work life. By the time we are done with these students, they are confident travelers and know the importance of personal responsibility.”

Tamara Jackson, OJH special education teacher, said there are often situations that arise in the real world and it’s important to ensure students are prepared to face those situations.

“There are problems that you can’t learn in the classroom, that you don’t realize until you’re out in the community and you see it,” she said. “We want to train students and fix these problems now to make them more safe and able to travel as independently as possible.”

District Release

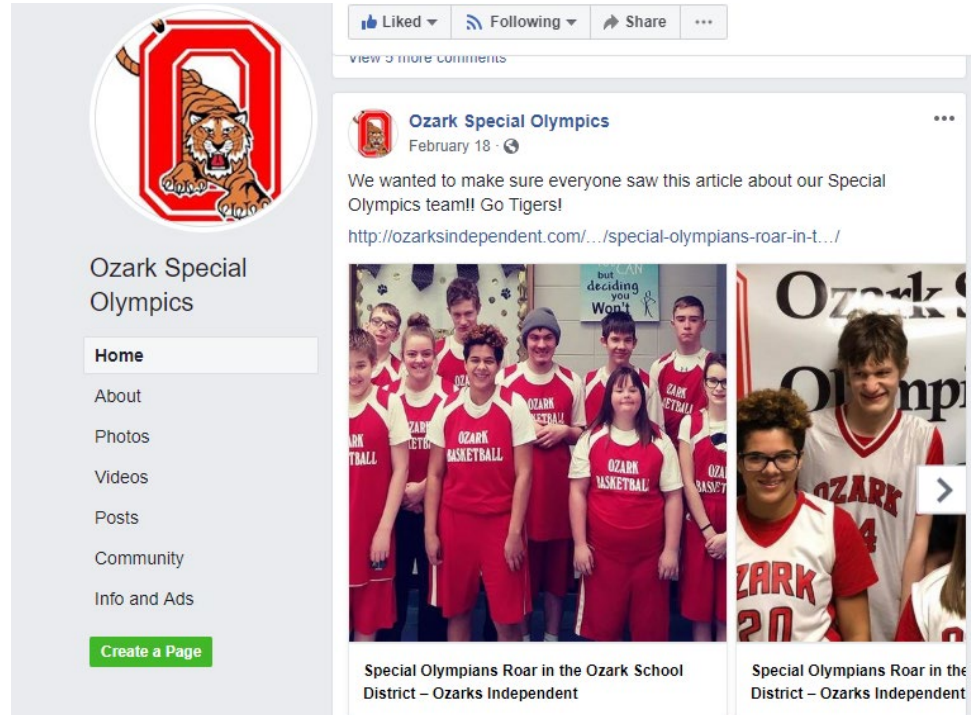
Ozark School District strives to promote all students regardless of their educational needs. This includes all programs within the Special Services Department. General assumptions may be inferred concerning services provided to students who participate in Special Services. For Example, a student pictured within a gifted or special needs classroom may unintentionally be identified as a gifted student or student with special needs. The information will be specific to stories about your child's participation in activities both in the classroom and District. The District will not release any specific information about services a student receives. By signing below you are giving permission for your child to be identified through media stories as an Ozark School District student which may be inadvertently identified as a recipient of special services.

If a parent chooses not to sign this form, it will not impact the placement of their child's picture in the yearbook or any other allowances in School Board Policy [JO](#).

Specific Circumstances

This release is used each time we do a story, even if the student has participated before.

Exception to this is our [Special Olympics Facebook](#) account. They obtain parent permission for the Facebook account at the beginning of the year.



The screenshot shows the Facebook profile for 'Ozark Special Olympics'. The profile picture is a red and white logo featuring a tiger's head inside a stylized letter 'O'. The page name is 'Ozark Special Olympics' and it has 0 likes and 0 followers. A post from February 18 is visible, with the text: 'We wanted to make sure everyone saw this article about our Special Olympics team!! Go Tigers!' and a link to 'http://ozarksindependent.com/.../special-olympians-roar-in-t.../'. Below the text are two photos of the basketball team. The first photo shows a group of about ten team members in red and white uniforms posing together. The second photo is a close-up of two team members in their uniforms. The captions for the photos are: 'Special Olympians Roar in the Ozark School District – Ozarks Independent' and 'Special Olympians Roar in the District – Ozarks Independent'.



OJH Teachers Surprise Students with New Coffee Cart

Students in Tamara Jackson's life skill class at Ozark Junior High have been brightening the days of teachers and staff by going from room to room with coffee and flavored creamers in the mornings and iced tea in the afternoons. Jackson, a special education teacher, thought it was a chance for students to give back to the staff while learning job skills. On May 21, however, teachers turned the tables — or in this case, the cart —

surprising students with a brand new cart, personalized aprons and towels, and a money box.

[Read More](#) →



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On Your Mark: Ozark Special Olympics Opens up Opportunities

Special education teachers at Ozark Junior High, Ozark Middle School and Ozark High School started Ozark Special Olympics in the 2016-17 school year to expose students to organized sports.

People First Language

If thought corrupts language,
language can also corrupt
thought.

George Orwell

What do
you call a
person
with a
disability?

A person!

RIGHT: <i>People first language</i>	WRONG
People or individuals with disabilities	The handicapped, special needs, challenged, afflicted with a disability, suffers from a disability
Bridget, who uses a wheelchair	The girl in the wheelchair, wheelchair-bound, confined to a wheelchair
A woman with paraplegia, a man that has quadriplegia	A paraplegic, a quadriplegic, cripp, crippled
A class for children with disabilities	A handicapped class
Person without a disability	A normal person
Person with mental illness	The mentally ill, the emotionally disturbed, insane, crazy, demented, psycho, lunatic
Accessible bus/parking spot	Handicapped bus/parking spot
People with intellectual disabilities; people with cognitive disabilities	Retarded people, mentally retarded
A person who has Down syndrome or a person with Down syndrome	Downs kid, Mongoloid
She is a little person, or she is of short stature	She's a dwarf/midget
He has a brain injury	He is brain damaged

Questions or Comments?

