

Welcome to the **Virtual Acceptance Week!**

*Acceptance Week was created by Harrison High School senior and Special Olympics Hamilton County intern, Raileigh Legner in 2018 around her vision for a more inclusive culture at her high school for her friends who have intellectual disabilities. Her hope is to **unite** student bodies in every school!*

For 2021, **We are taking Acceptance Week Virtual!** We hope that by going virtual we can get as many people to join as we can! **Check out all the information below on how to get started!**

What is Acceptance Week?

Acceptance Week is a time for schools, individuals, and everyone in between to spread one simple mission: **Awareness + Change = Acceptance.**

By creating awareness of all persons, regardless of ability, inspiring change in your local community, we can truly spread acceptance.

Why should we participate?

Acceptance Week is a time for important messaging to be showcased across your lives, social media, and programs. Most important, it is **FUN.**

When is Acceptance Week?

Acceptance Week will be March 1 – 5, 2021.

Acceptance week happens in **March** around International **Spread the Word Inclusion Day** (spreadtheword.global).

I'm in! How do we participate?

1. **Submit your Sign Up Request Form to Lindsay at lbartsch@sooh.org by February 10th, 2021.** *This will be our contact information and your materials request form.*
2. **Download your 2021 Acceptance Week Toolkit [here!](#)**
3. **If requested, schedule a time to pick up your materials at the SOHC office during the week of February 22nd!**
4. **Promote your teaser weeks (Feb. 8 – Feb. 26) and enjoy Acceptance Week (March 1 -5).**

**If you are participating from outside of Hamilton County, please contact Lindsay at lbartsch@sooh.org.*

If you have any questions, please reach out to Lindsay at lbartsch@sooh.org.

We can't wait to see your Acceptance Week Spirit!

Lindsay Bartsch

Manager – Sports & Competition, Southwest Ohio

Raileigh Legner

Creator, Acceptance Week

Acceptance Week Timeline

DATE	DUE/WEEK
February 8 – 12 th	Teaser Week 1: AWARE
February 10 th	Sign Up Forms Due/ <i>Material Requests</i>
February 15 – 19 th	Teaser Week 2: CHANGE
February 22 – 26 th	Teaser Week 3: ACCEPT
March 1 -5 th	ACCEPTANCE WEEK

Tracking Your Involvement on Social Media!

Hashtags for Acceptance Week

#acceptanceweek2021
 #SOMixmatchmonday
 #SOTiedyetuesday
 #SoweareONE
 #Sotakethepledgethursday
 #SOInclusionFriday

Instagram Tags for Acceptance Week

@specialolympicshc
 @specialolympicsoh
 @specialolympics
 @acceptanceweek
 @raileighlegner

*Regardless of if your school is online or in-person I HIGHLY recommend using social media to get the word out each theme and everything it entails. Also make sure to post, repost photos of the participants as much as possible.

Virtual

If your school is virtual/remote learning during Acceptance Week use the hashtag options **above!**

Also tag everyone above!

By tagging the following accounts we will all be able to see everyone's participation and we will also be able to share it to our accounts! To get the word out about Acceptance Week, I recommend the use of social media. (See Acceptance Week Virtual Toolkit on Dropbox [here](#) -).

In-Person

If your school is back to school, then Acceptance Week can take place as it has in the past. In previous years to track the student engagement and participation, we asked teachers to offer extra credit to the students who participated and asked them to take LOTS OF PICTURES. This is an event that should become an **annual** event to help your student body learn to accept the students with intellectual disabilities at your school.

We also ask that the school as a whole post the pictures of the day's participation using what was stated for the virtual students.

Acceptance Week Daily Breakdown:

Monday

Theme: Mix Match Monday

Wear two different socks to show we are all unique in our own way.

Meaning behind this:

- Life would be so boring if we are all the same. But in today's society, we are not only quick to judge one another, but compare ourselves to our peers. With this theme, I want to show that it is okay to not match everyone. At the end of the day, we need to learn to love and accept ourselves for who we are. Even though this theme is such a simple thing to do, it will hopefully start to break the taboo that everyone needs to be perfect.

Tuesday

Theme: Tie Dye Tuesday

Rock your tie dye to represent all disabilities.

Meaning behind this:

- Every awareness, cause, disability all has its own color. During Acceptance Week, we want to bring awareness to the students with intellectual disabilities and show there is no superior disability and all should be represented equally. We want to bring awareness and acceptance to ALL. So that is why we are asking you to put on your favorite tie dye shirt, pants, hat, sweatshirt, or whatever tie dye you have! Schools will be given tie dye kits from SOHC (if requested). We can make sure to get you these supplies prior to Acceptance week so that students have tie dye they can wear!

Wednesday

Theme: We are One

Wear your school spirit to show your school is ONE student body.

Meaning behind this:

- It does not matter about each other's differences. At the end of the day, we are ONE STUDENT BODY, ONE SCHOOL, ONE COMMUNITY. Together we can show everyone that we are ONE no matter what our differences may be.

Thursday

Theme: Take the Pledge Thursday

There is not a particular thing we are asking people to wear this day. We are asking for you to take the time to take the pledge to Spread the Word Inclusion

<https://www.spreadtheword.global/pledge>

Meaning behind this:

- The day that this “theme” falls on is March 4th known as Spread the Word Inclusion Day. So, we are running this campaign to not only put an end to the “r-word” know as retarded. Many students use this word every day, but they do not really know the meaning behind this word. They just use it to joke around with their friends, but little do they know that it is a very offensive word. So, during this day we ask that you please post this link <https://www.spreadtheword.global/pledge> and have easy access for the staff, students, and community to pledge.

Friday

Theme: Inclusion Friday:

Wear anything yellow to show that you understand **Awareness+ Change= ACCEPTANCE** and together we can make a change.

Meaning behind this:

- The color yellow is what I chose when I first started Acceptance Week back in 2018. I chose yellow because when I volunteer with the Special Olympics athletes, they brighten up my day and fill my body with happiness. When I came up with the idea for Acceptance Week, I wanted to show the student body and faculty at my school how special the students with intellectual disabilities are. Most importantly I wanted to help change the student body perception towards the students with intellectual disabilities and show that they are no different than you and me. So, go grab whatever yellow you have and brighten up the people around your day!