

Inclusion

One of the most powerful pictures that shows the kingdom of God is when you see real relationships happen with our All Ability athletes and their typical peers. God did not create us to be isolated. And our individuals with disabilities are isolated so much from every day activities in life, school and faith. Jill Fitzpatrick, one of our Unified coaches and public school teachers, fights hard for this to happen at Mountain View High School. She and her team were awarded the Unified Champion School status. Getting to partner with Jill for her whole school inclusion initiative has been so impactful to be a part of. One of our FCA leaders, a flag football player, and friend, Mckayla, goes out daily to pick up one of our All Ability athletes Zoie. Inclusion is just a start. Mckayla, is creating space every day for Zoie to belong at Mountain View. Zoie gets walked into school every single day by Mckayla. Mckayla has gotten so much life from her relationship with Zoie and Zoie gets to see Mckayla's tangible love every day. This has ministered to Zoie's family in so many ways as Zoie started high school this year. Mikayla also is a partner for the Unified Flag Football team which she practices before her flag football practice. McKayla also went to regionals and state with her Unified team. Mckayla is involved with campus FCA and has gone to our FCA state camp for two years. After Mckayla's involvement with FCA All Abilities and now Unified sports at her school, Mckayla has decided to go into special education teaching. What a huge blessing to see what God has done through inclusion for both Zoie and McKayla.

Inclusion doesn't end with school and sports, it is very much a part of the campus as a huddle. Cody, Jill and Karrie have made our very first All Ability Unified campus huddle happen at Mountain View. Cody leads his all ability athletes and partners in an FCA huddle Bible study every week after practice. We have provided resources, food and mentorship for this huddle. Cody opens up the Word, prays and gives leadership to one of the typical peers so he can lead. It has been such an incredible thing to see what God has done on one campus through a character coach. FCA discipleship strategy is relationships through the character coach for discipleship opportunities. This is certainly what happened at Mountain View. Jill asked for a character coach, FCA provided Cody to be the flag football character coach which he ended up coaching all Unified sports. Thank you Cody! After three seasons, Cody got approval to start the first Bible study on a public school campus for our All Ability individuals. Karrie, the para at Mountain View said, this is the best part of my week. The athletes have prayed over Karrie as she has for them. What a sweet blessing from the Lord. Starting with a character coach and an FCA leader, so much has happened at one school.

It is our prayer that this happens on every public school campus in Northern Colorado through inclusion, character coaching, discipleship and Christian community.

A note from McKayla about Zoie:

. hello this is zoie and she is my friend and she always brings me to smiles when i'm feeling down and i'm so happy i can have a friend like her. her mom is an amazing person. I enjoy getting to learn more about her and her family