**Metuchen High School**

**Bulldog P.A.W.S. Unified Physical Education**

**2021-2022**

**Please read the directions carefully before filling out this application.**

This packet includes:

* A summary of the Bulldog P.A.W.S. Unified Physical Education program
* Information about the selection process
* Actual application:
  + Personal statement
  + Behavioral Pledge
  + Parent Permission form
  + Teacher recommendation

All forms must be printed including the teacher recommendation form must be completely filled out, signed and returned to Ms. Gazda in the Unified Box in the vestibule **no later than FRIDAY, January 22, 2021.**

**Interviews will begin on Wednesday, February 3, via Zoom. The interview link will be sent to your school email. The schedule for interviews will be distributed to teachers so they are aware of times and dates.**

**There will be extra copies of the application available in the vestibule for your convenience.**

If you have any questions, please contact:

Ms. Gazda

Unified Physical Education Teacher

[vagazda@metboe.k12.nj.us](mailto:vagazda@metboe.k12.nj.us)

METUCHEN HIGH SCHOOL

# Unified Physical Education

Bulldog P.A.W.S.

January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your son/daughter is applying for a very unique opportunity to be a member of our Bulldog P.A.W.S. (Peer Assisted Well Rounded Skills) Unified Physical Education Program. This is a Physical Education course offered to seniors and juniors that are interested in working alongside of students with intellectual disabilities. Senior and junior students who are selected for P.A.W.S. will take three marking periods of this Physical Education course. The students will attend Health class to fulfill their credit requirements during the remaining marking period.

The final selection process consists of an application, parental permission form, teacher recommendation, personal interview and faculty review. Applicants will be selected for their ability to connect with a broad spectrum of students. Qualities of potential Bulldog P.A.W.S. students include compassion for others, patience, self-assurance and overall desire to learn about the differences in people. The goal of our program is to create a cohesive group of student leaders who can integrate our special needs students socially, emotionally and physically into our high school population.

If your son/daughter is not selected to be in the P.A.W.S. program, in no way is it a reflection of how we feel he/she would interact or “fit into” our program. We have several qualified applicants and have the difficult task of choosing the students to participate in the program.

Students who are selected to be in the P.A.W.S. program are expected to be positive role models. They must sign the pledge and make a commitment to uphold all of our school policies. Their behavior needs to be exemplary in all ways. As a representative of P.A.W.S. and as a role model to all students at Metuchen High School, selected students need to make wise and thoughtful decisions, and conduct themselves in a respectful manner.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Valerie Gazda Deneane Bonassisa, LDT-C

MHS Health and Physical Education Teacher Case Manager

Unified Physical Education Instructor Metuchen High School

[vagazda@metboe.k12.nj.us](mailto:vgazda@metboe.k12.nj.us) [dbonassisa@metboe.k12.nj.us](mailto:dbonassisa@metboe.k12.nj.us)

I have read the above explanation regarding Bulldog P.A.W.S Unified Physical Education course selection process. If my son/daughter is selected to be in the program, I agree to support him/her in the participation role as outlined above.

Student’s Name (print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name (Print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Behavioral Pledge**

**Please carefully read the paragraph below before you sign it. If selected to be in the Bulldog P.A.W.S. program, this is your pledge to behave respectfully and adhere to all of the school’s policies and uphold the high standard of being a role model at Metuchen High School.**

If chosen to be in the Bulldog P.A.W.S. program,

I understand that I will be viewed by the entire Metuchen High School student body,

faculty and administration as a role model. My words, actions and behavior will

be perceived as an example for others to follow. I understand that I will need to make wise, thoughtful decisions because of my responsibilities as a leader in this program.

If I am selected to be in the Bulldog P.A.W.S. program, I will behave in a respectful,

considerate manner towards myself and others. This includes how

I portray myself publicly, in and out of school as well as on social media.

I will abstain from drug and alcohol use, both on and off of Metuchen High School campus.

If I fail to comply by this contract, I realize that my position as a leader in the

Bulldog P.A.W.S. program may be revoked.



Applicant’s printed name



Applicant’s signature Date

**Metuchen High School**

**Bulldog P.A.W.S. Unified Physical Education**

**2021-2022**

**Please print legibly.**

Name: Current PE/Health period 

PE/Health Teacher 

Email address:

**Please complete the following questions.**

1. Why do you want to be selected for the Bulldog P.A.W.S. course?
2. What personal strengths would you bring to our program?
3. What school/life experiences have you had that would contribute to your knowledge and skills in this program?
4. What do you think that your role would be?
5. What are some challenges that you may encounter in this course? How would you manage those challenges?
6. Why is it important to be a good role model to be selected into this program?
7. What do you hope to “take with you” as an experience from the Bulldog P.A.W.S. Unified program?
8. Our class is unified. How would you define unified and how does it relate to our Physical Education program?

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Applicant’s name:

Teacher’s name:

**Teacher Recommendation**

**Confidential:** Teachers please email or place into Val Gazda’s mailbox by **FRIDAY, January 22, 2021**

Students recommended for this program must be dependable, positive role models who are patient, compassionate individuals. The students that you recommend must work effectively with adults and students in a unified Physical Education setting. They need to be good listeners who have the ability to accept differences and exhibit good judgement when dealing with special needs students.

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what context?
2. Please comment briefly on your perception of the applicant’s readiness and ability to take on this important leadership role.

Thank you for your support of this student and our program!

Ms. Valerie Gazda

MHS Unified Physical Education Instructor