



The Aspire Club

Addressing Social
Barriers at Farragut High
School Between Students
With Disabilities and
Those Without

Social Isolation - Insiders' Perspectives



- “Loneliness is sadness.” - Brian Hilbert
- “For much of school, I had no friends.” - Stephen Hinkle
- “It’s kind of hard getting left out of everything.” - Lauren Allen, FHS student
- In general, students with disabilities don’t know what they’re missing.

Barriers to Social Inclusion



- Segregation and Marginalization
- Inadequate School-Life Communication
- Low Expectations
- Sponsors and Chaperones Lack Inclusion Skills

Keeping Some Facts in Mind



- Students with disabilities have the right to participate!
- Use common sense - What can I do and enjoy?
- All students should be encouraged to participate together regardless of ability.
- Questions arise - Can this really work? Who should be in charge?

A Comprehensive Solution - The Aspire Club



- Senior Project Idea: Set up a sustainable student organization that is intentionally diverse, student-led, and committed to service
- Tennessee Aspire Program
- National Youth Leadership Council's "K-12 Service-Learning Standards for Quality Practice"
- State-level oversight and training through the Department of Education
- *A totally new application of the Aspire model*

Current Status of the FHS Aspire Club



- Members trained in team building, asset mapping, project planning and execution, and other leadership skills
- Meeting regularly and reporting progress to the state Aspire Director
- Several service-learning activities underway, including a pilot disability awareness presentation for FHS Wellness Classes
- Actively recruiting new members of all abilities

Any Questions?

