



PRESS RELEASE

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Fontana Unified's Splash and Dash Event Celebrates Students with Special Needs

FONTANA, CA – Fontana Unified students with special needs raced to the finish line, launched softballs across the field and cooled off with a water balloon toss on May 13 during the seventh annual Splash and Dash at Henry J. Kaiser High School.

Splash and Dash – one of the largest district special education events in California – brought together students from Kaiser's general education program and the District's high school special education programs for a day of friendly competition and healthy activities.

Wayne Ruble and Fontana middle school students also participated this year, representing FUSD middle schools at the event for the first time.

"Splash and Dash gives our students a chance to break down the social barriers between them, celebrate inclusivity and promote healthy lifestyles," said Mike Giardina, a Kaiser High special education teacher and one of the event's organizers. "We are so grateful to the District and the community for coming together to create an amazing experience for our students with special needs."

Students with special needs were welcomed to campus by cheering Kaiser students before enjoying a welcome breakfast and community health fair. Led by Kaiser's marching band, cheer team and JROTC students, the athletes paraded across campus toward the stadium.

Kaiser High's Link Crew, ASB and JROTC students competed alongside students with special needs in track and field events like the 50-meter dash, softball throw, wheelchair social, long jump and sensory obstacle course – an event for students with more involved disabilities.

Students cooled off with water challenges, including a water balloon toss and bottle-filling relay.

PHOTO CAPTION:

FUSD_SPLASH_DASH: Fontana Unified students with special needs sprint to the finish line during a 50-meter dash on May 13 at Splash and Dash, an event that builds relationships and promotes inclusivity.

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