



Specialty Classes Let Students Shine at the Olympics

Based on an Interview with Vice Principal Kate Burwinkel

By Lisa Casalegno

The second annual My School Matters Olympic Triathlon gives students an important role in shaping their school's future. Students will demonstrate skills learned in their specialty classes – art, PE and Spanish – while raising money to preserve Westlake programs. At the end of the Olympics, they will also have created a school-wide art project that will leave a lasting impression on campus.

“Students have pride in this event, because they are working toward making this school a better place,” Kate Burwinkel, Curriculum Coordinator said. “This is the only fundraiser that involves the students, and we work to incorporate the curriculum so that event also supports our curriculum.”

This year's Olympics includes an obstacle course to showcase agility and motor skills learned in PE; a traditional Spanish game called *Juego de las Estrellas* (All Star Game) in which students answer questions in Spanish; and an art project where students help create a mosaic for the Westlake campus.

“Specialty classes are things that are not offered at other schools, and this event gives parents and students a way to celebrate how fortunate we are to have these classes,” said Ms. Burwinkel.

Like last year, each class has chosen a country to represent from the continent they are studying, and will create a flag for the opening ceremony that displays what they learned about that nation. Parents are invited to attend and enjoy this great event and encouraged to help their students meet fundraising goals.

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