



# News Release

## St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School launches Unified Sports Program with inaugural pep rally

***For immediate release – October 2, 2025***

Red Deer, Alberta - St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School is set to make history this Friday by officially launching its brand-new Unified Sports program with a high-energy, school-wide Pep Rally. The initiative, supported by Special Olympics, is designed to foster inclusion, teamwork, and school spirit by creating a unified environment where students of all abilities can compete and celebrate together.

The entire school community is invited to cheer on the 53 students from the school's Foundations and Blended programs who proudly make up the inaugural Team Unified.

**What:** Unified Sports Inaugural Pep Rally

**Who:** St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School students, staff, and Team Unified athletes

**When:** Friday, October 3, 2025, at 10:00 AM

**Where:** St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School Gymnasium

### **A Milestone for Inclusion**

This year marks the launch of Unified Sports at St. Lorenzo, making this event a significant milestone for the school. The program's goal is simple yet profound: to provide every student with the opportunity to belong to a team, compete, and celebrate abilities together.

"Our students are beyond excited to step onto the field and court together," shared the Unified Sports teaching team, composed of Blended teachers Haley, Katie, Emily, and Jessie.

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"Unified Sports isn't just about athletics—it's about belonging, celebrating abilities, and creating a community where everyone shines."

The Unified Sports launch is about more than competition; it's focused on breaking down barriers, encouraging friendships, and creating lasting memories.

Rob Coumont, St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School Principal, echoed the sentiment, stating, "This is an exciting opportunity for our Blended and Foundations students to be a part of a team, showcase their abilities and foster the skills that participating in sport brings. This is also an important way to highlight and celebrate inclusion within our school community. We are appreciative of our staff for organizing and implementing this meaningful initiative."

## Media Opportunity

Local media are invited to attend the Pep Rally to capture the excitement and energy of this inaugural event. This is a prime opportunity to film or photograph the unified student body celebrating the launch of this meaningful, inclusive sports program. Interviews will be available with students, the Unified Sports teaching team, and the school administration.

### For more information, contact:

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