

## Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- 1 in 49 children will be diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- ASD is the fastest growing developmental disability
- ASD is 4 times more common in boys than girls
- ASD affects individuals from all racial, ethnic, economic and educational groups
- ASD is a lifelong disability
- There is no known cause or cure for ASD.



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**Questions about the Patriot Link program? Contact one of the Link staff:**

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We need **YOU** to be  
a  
**PATRIOT LINK!**



Meads Mill Middle School  
Northville Public Schools



## Now seeking caring, open-minded, risk-taking communicators!

If you'd like to be a Patriot Link, please complete the Parent Permission form below, detach this side, and return it to the office by Tuesday, November 22nd, 2016.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent Permission:

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the Patriot LINKS program at Meads Mill Middle School.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



### A WIN - WIN for ALL students:

- Provides multiple opportunities for the interaction between general education students and students with social or learning challenges.
- Students learn to relate to people with different needs.
- Students increase their understanding of individual differences.
- Builds strong communities in school.
- Students with challenges learn social communication and independence skills in the natural setting from their peers.
- Participation in the classroom increases for students with disabilities.
- Students without disabilities gain self-confidence, empathy, and leadership skills.
- Students learn valuable problem solving skills, collaboration skills, and an understanding of differences that will be used in the future.



### What to Expect:

Mentors (LINKS) will be matched with a student with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and may be asked to either assist them during the designated class with socialization and independence skills AND/OR participate with the student during Academic Enrichment time twice per month in a social group setting. We are not asking kids to stop being kids or stop spending time with their peer group; we are asking them to include the students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Their commitment is exclusive to the school day and that specific class and/or group time. Peer mentors will also have the opportunity to meet with the facilitator on a monthly basis during lunch time to evaluate the program and have any questions or concerns answered.



**PATRIOT PRIDE:**  
**Be Respectful,**  
**Be Responsible,**  
**Be Safe**

