

Smithville Rotary Club supports inclusive play by purchasing new playground equipment for elementary schools

Interact Club
July 21, 2020



The project “ADA-Compliant Play Tables for Smithville Elementary Schools” is a local project to add playground equipment that is accessible to physically-disabled and able-bodied students. The idea was envisioned when a student spoke to the school board about the difficulty accessing the original equipment independently. While the school will address the immediate needs of the existing equipment, the Smithville Rotary Club wanted to take the initiative by installing five sand play tables at each of the playgrounds for the three elementary schools in Smithville.

The big idea of the project is that students will have the opportunity to interact with each other no matter their circumstances. Furthermore, it brings disability awareness, sensitivity, and kindness to others. Inclusive learning is something that all schools should introduce and practice because it helps teach at a young age that it is important for everyone to have equal access and equity in both inside and outside the classroom.

Disability awareness can have a significant impact throughout the community. In particular, the new equipment can improve mental and social health for those with disabilities. Encouraging interactive play between all students allows them to gain positive attitudes and empathy. By supporting diversity, it can also diminish stereotypical and biased mindsets. This all just creates a more positive and accepting environment where students can become better citizens.

This project will improve many lives and be appreciated by numerous people in the Smithville community. As well as encouraging other schools to do the same and giving students confidence to make a change. The Smithville Rotary Club and Interact Club held a dedication at Maple Elementary School playground on Thursday, July 16.
