

why the Y

Dear friend of the Athens YMCA,

We have the special privilege of hosting Clarke County School District special needs students at our pool on Fridays for their physical education class. They alternate classrooms and grade levels so that a variety of students are exposed to the water. But the children do visit multiple times during a semester and it's a joy to see them grow.

One teacher said that trips to the YMCA pool have been an integral part of teaching their adapted students about the real world. It provides a safe and fun learning opportunity where students can engage in an activity that they otherwise might not be able to, while simultaneously exposing them to aspects of the community.

Students learn safety outside of the classroom by actively engaging in their environment at the Y. Students learn how to respond appropriately to others in public, about community helpers (Lifeguards), and pool safety. Students learn responsibility by bringing their pool items to school, taking them with them on the bus, and changing in a public locker room while at the YMCA.

"Thank you so much for all of your support. Swimming at the YMCA is very beneficial because it is a life skill needed by all of us. This allows our students to participate not only in life skills but social skills as well."

-Martina Stewart, Bettye Henderson Holston Elementary

Independent Body Awareness
I can learn to control my body!

Leisure Skills
Fun activity to keep me active & healthy!

Skills for Safety
Water Awareness Saves Lives!

Community Involvement
I can be an active citizen in Athens.

Why YMCA Swimming?

The collage features four Polaroid-style photographs of people swimming in a pool. The first photo (top left) shows a woman and a child in the water. The second photo (top right) shows two children swimming. The third photo (bottom left) shows a woman and a child swimming. The fourth photo (bottom right) shows a group of children swimming. A cartoon lifeguard in a red shirt and black shorts is positioned in the bottom left corner. The background is a blue grid pattern with white stars.

So, why the Y?

Because the Y is a place where special needs children can interact with the community in a safe and fun environment, challenging them in healthy ways that build character.

Gratefully,

Shae Wilson
CEO, Athens YMCA