



WORLD AUTISM MONTH, BEGINNING WITH WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY ON APRIL 2, IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE STORIES AND INCREASE UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF PEOPLE WITH AUTISM, FOSTERING WORLDWIDE SUPPORT. THE PHRASE "LIGHT IT UP BLUE" IS COMMONLY USED TO SHOW SUPPORT THROUGH WEARING AND DECORATING WITH THE COLOR BLUE IN THE MONTH OF APRIL.

In 2020, it was reported that approximately 1 in 54 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with autism.

Almost half -- 44% -- of children diagnosed with autism have average to above average intelligence quotients (IQs).

1 in 34 boys & 1 in 144 girls are diagnosed with autism.

Autism is a spectrum disorder, which means that everyone with autism has different skills, challenges and needs.

WORLD AUTISM MONTH

Autism affects people of all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can learn and succeed in the classroom and beyond.



"ON MY DAD'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY, I HAVE TWO COUSINS WITH AUTISM. THOUGH OUR INTERACTIONS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE NORMAL, WE LOVE THEM FOR WHO THEY ARE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR DISABILITIES."

Drew Welter '22

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER IS ONE OF THE FASTEST-GROWING DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS IN THE UNITED STATES. ASD IS MORE COMMON THAN CHILDHOOD CANCER, DIABETES AND AIDS COMBINED.

"MY COUSIN HAS AUTISM AND IT HAS AFFECTED THE WAY WE INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER. THOUGH HE CAN BE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND AT TIMES, HE MEANS WELL AND IS A GREAT KID. HE CARES A LOT ABOUT HIS FAMILY AND IS A TON OF FUN TO BE AROUND."

Emwua Kyes '24



"MY UNCLE IS A THERAPIST FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN AND ADULTS. HE IS ABLE TO HELP THEM WITH ANY AND ALL OF THEIR STRUGGLES AND ANXIETIES. IT'S GOOD TO HEAR THAT THERE'S SUPPORT OUT THERE FOR EVERYONE."

Mr. Rittweller



TO FULLY SUPPORT AND BRING AWARENESS, IT IS NECESSARY TO FIRST EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT WHAT AUTISM IS. IF OUR COMMUNITY IS MORE EDUCATED ON THE TOPIC, WE COULD BE, AS A WHOLE, MUCH MORE UNDERSTANDING.