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## **MIAA PRESENTS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS TO ANDOVER STUDENT ATHLETES**

*Unified Basketball Team and AHS Girls Soccer Honored for Community Service*

*Andover, Mass.*—Student athletes were honored today by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) with the *Educational Achievement Award*, which recognizes acts of community service. MIAA Assistant Director Rich Riley presented certificates to the two teams at Andover High School, the Andover High School Girls Soccer Team and the Unified Basketball team. As part of today's ceremony, Unified Basketball players and coaches received varsity letters and pins from Athletic Director Bill Martin.

In November 2018, the Unified Basketball team hosted the MIAA and Special Olympics Merrimack Valley Conference Jamboree. Unified Sports encourages youth with and without intellectual disabilities to come together as student leaders, athletes, and agents for inclusion within their school communities.

Also in November, the Andover Girls Soccer team prepared dinners on Thanksgiving morning to families who were affected by the gas crisis. When the explosions occurred in September, the AHS Girls Soccer team was in the middle of a game and saw smoke rising over the tree line, followed by sirens blaring everywhere.

"Community service is incredibly important and our student athletes set terrific examples of good citizenship," notes Superintendent Sheldon Berman. "I am proud of our teams, and thrilled the MIAA recognizes Andover student athletes for their commitment to community."

"Today is a great day for Andover athletes," adds Bill Martin, athletic director at Andover High School. "It's an honor for the MIAA to present these awards, and for two Andover teams to be celebrated is an amazing achievement."

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*\*please see courtesy photos attached*

**About APS:** The mission of the Andover Public Schools, in partnership with the entire Andover community, is to educate by engaging and inspiring students to develop as self-reliant, responsible citizens who are thinkers, problem solvers, and contributors prepared to participate in an evolving global society.