



Sisters Middle School

“Home of the Outlaws”

Tara Reis
Principal

Michele Hammer
Dean of Students

Brook Jackson
Counselor

October 29, 2017

Dear Sisters Middle School Students, Parents and Families,

It is so hard to believe that we are almost into November and have reached the end of the first nine weeks. I have very much enjoyed getting to know our amazing students. I greatly appreciate the warm welcome I have received from students, parents and staff. Sisters Middle School is a wonderful place to work and learn each day! Please be sure to read through this entire letter as there is a list of the important dates up until Winter Break as well as information on after school traffic, the 7th and 8th grade retreats, the smoke make-up dates and more.

Spirit Week:

The week of October 30 - November 3 is spirit week. Students will have the opportunity to join in some fun camaraderie by dressing to daily themes. **Students may wear costumes on Tuesday, October 31st.** Students may **NOT** wear masks, hoods or hooded costumes and absolutely no real or lookalike weapons are permitted on school grounds. Costumes must meet dress code requirements for appropriateness. Students may paint their faces and color their hair. The more the merrier, so please encourage your student to participate in all of the spirit week themed days.

Monday - Pajama Day

Tuesday - Crazy Costume Day (Please read costume requirements above.)

Wednesday - Nerds vs Superheroes Day

Thursday - Jersey Day - Support your favorite team!

Friday - Flannel Day

Drop off / Pick up traffic:

The school is very much aware that there is an issue with student drop in the morning and especially, student pick-up in the afternoon. We are always looking for ways to improve the situation, but unfortunately, due to the current layout of the driveways, this is a concern that may not be completely remedied this school year. The grounds are not designed for such heavy pick-up traffic. The district is actively evaluating possible changes through the bond construction to improve traffic flow. As always, our top priority is student and family safety. We are open to suggestions as we plan long-term physical changes to improve the process. To help with the current situation, we are asking drivers to:

- Please pull through and park in the furthest open spot on the drop-off circle. When a vehicle leaves the circle, the first car in line (parked against the entrance drive), should pull up and through the circle to the open spot. This will help with traffic backed up on HWY 242.
- Please do not stop behind the ADA parking spots (near the start of the circle) or at the short red curb area (a fire lane) to unload or pick-up students.
- Students can also walk down the sidewalk (along the parked cars), cross at the crosswalk, walk through the wooded area and enter from the left side, vehicles parked along the entrance drive.
- Having students ride the bus home whenever possible will also help alleviate congestion.

Dress for the Weather:

We encourage our students to enjoy some fresh air by going outside each day for recess, weather permitting. We do go outside when it is cold and there is snow on the ground, so please remind your student to dress appropriately - warm coat, gloves, hats and boots (if playing in the snow). Middle School students, especially, can be “too cool” for winter gear, so please give them occasional reminders.

7th grade Retreat:

Each year our 7th and 8th grade students participate in grade-level retreats to develop positive peer relationships, participate in experiential learning activities and practice personal reflection skills. This Thursday, November 2, the 7th grade will travel to Suttle Lake for the 7th grade fall retreat. **I have attached a copy of the 7th grade retreat permission slip, if you should need another, or have your student ask Mrs. Rose for one. The 7th grade retreat cost \$5.** Also, please review the gear list to ensure your child is dressed appropriately and has any requested gear such as a water bottle, backpack (school type or soft pack is fine) and sack lunch. If your student would like a sack lunch through the school cafeteria, please let the office know as soon as possible. [Fall 17 Retreat Permission slip 7th grade \(1\).pdf](#)

Smoke Make-up Day Info:

Please note that there **WILL be school** for students on Monday, November 20 and Tuesday, November 21. These are make-up days for the two smoke days in August. The school understands that many families travel during those days. We will be flexible when working with families. If your student(s) will be absent on either of those days, please notify the office and teachers as soon as possible.

Leadership Events - Carnival and Veterans' Day Assembly:

The annual SMS carnival will be held during the day, Friday, November 3 in the SMS gym. All students will be attending. Mrs. Aylor and the Leadership students could still use 5 – 10 adult volunteers. We appreciate all of our family and community members who volunteer in the schools. We know how valuable everyone's time is and that it can be hard to find. Thank You!

The Veterans' Day Assembly will be held on Thursday, November 9th. If your student has an important person in his/her life, who is a veteran or is currently serving in the military, we would like to invite him or her to attend our annual Veterans' Day Assembly as a guest of your student.



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After the assembly, all servicemen are invited to join our leadership students in the library for refreshments. We have invitations available at the school. Thank you for helping us honor our veterans and active servicemen.

State Testing Information:

In 2010, Oregon adopted higher K-12 standards in English Language Arts and Math to ensure all students move from grade to grade with the academic knowledge and skills necessary for success beyond high school. In raising expectations for student knowledge and skill mastery, the state has also changed the way student progress is assessed. The Smarter Balance state assessments are now used to measure student progress and skill level. For more information about the tests, why participation matters, the benefits of testing as well as additional information, please visit our website: <http://ssd6.org/student-services/sba/>

Important dates:

November 2 - 7th grade retreat

November 3 - School Carnival

Thursday, November 9 - Veterans' Day Assembly

Friday, November 10 - No School

Tuesday, November 14 - MS band and choir concert @SHS

Monday, November 20 - School in session

Tuesday, November 21 - School in session

Friday, December 15 - Holiday Showcase (7 / 8) Band and Choir concert @SHS

Monday, December 25 - Friday, January 5 – No School for Winter Break

Thank you,

Tara Reis

Principal

