



# HALLOWEEN

Good afternoon everyone,

I am writing to talk about Halloween at Silverdale Elementary...for many people Halloween is a fun, exciting, costume filled time where kids get to engage in the fantasy that comes with dressing up. For others, it is a high-fructose corn syrup, spider infested, anxiety and fear driven time of year where all the important rules we learned as kids are broken: Don't talk to strangers, don't go up to strangers' homes, never ever take candy from strangers, be at home when the streetlights come on, and whatever you do, don't wander the streets after dark!

Because everyone experiences Halloween in different ways, here are some ground rules for costumes:

1. No head coverings unless it is part of the costume, NO scary, scarred up, or blood soaked masks (it is ok to be batgirl/batman but nothing that could scare small children or cause a cardiac arrest in the elderly).
2. Anything that depicts violence, alcohol, or drugs are not permitted at school ever, so Halloween is no different. Fake weapons are not allowed (neither are real ones!).
3. Costumes that could be offensive or perpetuate a stereotype of someone's culture, gender, heritage, or religion are not permitted.



4. Costumes should not hinder your ability to participate in your class.

Talking points for parents to assist in this teachable moment...

- Remind students of their audience in the building: students (strong start to grade 6), teachers, parents, and community members.
- This is a school—what may be appropriate in pop culture or the media may not be appropriate for a place of learning.
- We are a community, and we want students to think about how their costume choice may impact others within this community.

I know that this might derail some of your plans, but sometimes we have a costume for at school and a different one when we go out after school.

Thank you all for ensuring that the rules are followed 😊



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## THE WEEKS FOLLOWING HALLOWEEN

Immediately following Halloween night students have in their possession significant quantities of high-fructose corn syrup, dextrose, refined sugar, and artificial food colors. These are the key ingredients in causing extremes in behaviors, emotions, and reasoning skills which can have an adverse effect on their school day. For those of you who are new to Silverdale and for those who need a reminder, I have a strict candy policy at the school. I feel that it is ok for students to have two, maybe three small candies in their lunch. The overall effect is minimal, and we are able to cope with the results. However, there are times when students are given or sneak a large quantity of candy to school believing it is a good idea; it isn't and things don't go well.

Knowing this, I have the following policy:

*If your child brings a large quantity of candy to school, they are allowed to eat all of it between 2:05 and 2:13, not before. That way the school gets the benefit of a happy energetic child at the end of the day and the parents can deal with the tummy aches and sugar crashes that happens shortly after.*

Thank you for your understanding,

Rob Clark, Principal