

SAYDEL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL OBSERVANCES PROGRAMS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

School Programs

The school district will continue school ceremonies and observances which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. These include, but are not limited to, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and observance of holidays, such as Christmas, Halloween and Easter, by programs and performances. Such ceremonies or observances will have a secular purpose and will not advocate or sponsor a particular religion.

Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the Principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reasons in compliance with Board policy.

School Programs may include holiday traditions. Such programs will have a secular purpose and will not sponsor a particular religion. Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the Principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reasons in compliance with board policy

School Parties

All parties, club meetings or social events (those held under the auspices of the Saydel Community School District) are to be held in a Saydel school building unless permission is obtained from the Principal prior to the event.

The faculty sponsor, or sponsors are to be present at the meeting or party for the entire time the group is meeting. If the party is an all school party, or the group numbers more than 50, a minimum of two members of the faculty will be present.

In general, parties will be scheduled on Friday or Saturday nights. If it is necessary to hold them on a school night, they will last no later than 9:30 p.m. Parties on Friday or Saturday nights may last no later than 11:00 p.m. Any exceptions to these closing hours must be cleared by the Principal.

Seasonal Parties

Seasonal parties may be held in the schools during recognized holiday seasons in October, December and February.

Money will not be collected from the students.

Each room may have party with refreshments and activities.

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Reviewed: February 2017

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SCHOOL OBSERVANCES PROGRAMS AND SOCIAL EVENTS CONTINUED

For activities where students are dressing up, their attire will be simple, related to the theme of the activity, not be time consuming to put on and not be disruptive to the educational climate.

Students who do not wish to participate may opt out.

All celebrations held during the school day must comply with state and federal nutrition regulations.

Legal Reference: U.S. Const. amend. I.
Lee v. Weisman, 112 S.Ct. 2649 (1992).
Lemon v. Kurtzman, 403 U.S. 602 (1971).
Graham v. Central Community School District of Decatur County, 608 F.Supp. 531 (S.D. Iowa 1985).
Iowa Code § 279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference: 603 Instructional Curriculum
604.5 Religious-Based Exclusion From A School Program

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