

SHREWSBURY BOROUGH SCHOOL
Shrewsbury, NJ

October 9, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This school year marks a distinct change in the way that Shrewsbury Borough School will celebrate the annual Halloween holiday. In the past, students left the building mid-day to get dressed at home and subsequently returned to school for a parade and classroom parties. For obvious reasons, this practice of leaving school grounds can no longer continue as it potentially endangers our students and substantially disrupts the instructional day for all of our students. In order to continue the longstanding SBS observance of Halloween during the school day, the district has redesigned and simplified the schedule to avoid as much disruption as possible.

- To avoid any difficulties with students changing into costumes during the school day, all Kindergarten through eighth grade students who choose to participate in this year's Halloween parade will attend school on October 30th, 2009 dressed in their costume. As always, costumes should be safe, appropriate, and comfortable.
- While make-up and masks will not be allowed during the rest of the school day, students are permitted to apply simple make-up and/or safe masks for the afternoon parade. Classroom helpers will be available to assist our students, especially in the primary grades, with any final details to costumes. Parents are encouraged to simplify and streamline the make-up process so students do not need extensive preparation for their costumes before the parade.
- No weapons or dangerous accessories will be permitted as part of a student's costume. Students should choose a costume which is not substantially disruptive to the learning environment and that can be worn over their normal clothing. Any student who attends school with a costume that is not considered appropriate for the school day will be required to contact parents for a change of clothing.
- Lunch for all students will be served following the typical, daily lunch schedule during Periods 5 and 6. After Period 6 lunch, all middle school students will report to their homerooms for the last two periods of the day.
- At approximately 1:30 PM, SBS will hold its annual Halloween Parade around the soccer field. All parents and guardians are invited to attend. This parade will not involve a costume contest and no prizes will be awarded. In the case of inclement weather, SBS will plan to parade in the gymnasium.
- At approximately 2:15 PM, teachers will escort their students back to their classrooms and proceed with any plans for a class or grade level party.

Parents are welcome at our parade at 1:30 PM, but will not be admitted to assist children with the donning or doffing of costumes, make-up, or any costume preparations at any point during the day. The goal of the district will be to provide an instructional day that is safe, educationally sound, and enjoyable for all of our students.

Sincerely,

Brent A. MacConnell
Superintendent