

Should Schools Ban Halloween?

By Shawnta S. Barnes – October 31, 2017



Halloween is one of the biggest commercial holidays which means schools will have to decide how to address it. Should students be allowed to dress up at school, or should Halloween be banned?

Some elementary schools have classroom Halloween parties. Other schools acknowledge students will want to celebrate on October 31, so they make alternate plans. A school in Massachusetts is celebrating black

and orange spirit day on Halloween. Indianapolis elementary schools Crooked Creek and Mary Castle are allowing students to dress up as their favorite book character as long as they donate \$1.00. Of course, there are schools that inform families that no costumes or candy will be tolerated. Which schools are correct?

As an educator, my first question is, "Will this disrupt instruction?" Students spend most of their time in school, and if a school has a great culture, students desire to have as many opportunities as possible to have fun with each other. Personally, I would prefer schools hold a trunk or treat or a Halloween dance after school if that is something the school community wants to have and help organize. I don't want to deal with making sure Sally has paid her \$1.00 and should be dressed up, or deal with giving a consequence if she comes to school in costume, but didn't pay. Yes, I think giving students the opportunity to dress up as a character can help build a love of literacy, but for this literacy coach, literacy is important every single day; this event doesn't have to happen on Halloween.

The best route for schools to take when making the decision to celebrate Halloween or not is to determine whether it will interfere with instruction. Schools should not buckle under pressure to appease parents if that means a day of learning is lost.