



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Salem-Keizer Public Schools recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples were the original stewards of lands that would later become known as the Americas; and

WHEREAS Indigenous peoples, including the terms the First Nations, Native Americans, and Alaska Natives have helped shape the future of Oregon and the United States through every turn of our history; and

WHEREAS SKPS recognizes that Native Americans and Alaska Natives were the first students and teachers of this land—in agriculture, land and wildlife management, medicine, engineering, language, culture, governance, and all things necessary to thrive as people; and

WHEREAS the SKPS Native Education Program provides services for Native American and Alaska Native students, such as academic coaching, college and scholarship information, the Native Education Annual Graduation Celebration, family enrichment nights, monthly meetings for parents and a culturally based academic summer program; and

WHEREAS nearly 1,800 students in SKPS identify as Alaska Native or Native American; and

WHEREAS we serve ALL Native students and recognize their cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS Native Americans and Alaska Natives hold a wealth of knowledge, wisdom, and stories of resilience, survivance and prosperity that must be shared with future generations; and

WHEREAS in 2017, the Oregon Legislature enacted Senate Bill 13, known as Tribal History/Shared History, for the implementation of curricula about Indigenous Peoples and Salem-Keizer curricula lessons on the nine “Essential Understandings of Native Americans in Oregon:” Since Time Immemorial; Sovereignty; Tribal Government; Lifeways; Treaties with the United States; Genocide, Federal Policy, and Laws; Language; Identity; and History; and

WHEREAS our community is better because of the diversity of our population; and

WHEREAS inclusion is a core value of our district, and the school board has a responsibility to oppose the systematic racism toward Indigenous people in Oregon and the United States; and

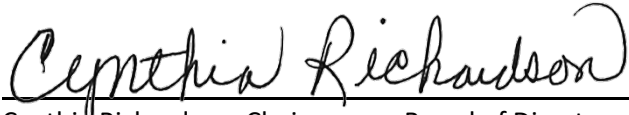
WHEREAS the school board promotes closing the equity and attendance gaps for Native Americans and Alaska Natives through policies and practices that reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples and ensure greater access and opportunity and honor the indigenous roots of this place, history, and contributions; and

WHEREAS President Joseph R. Biden Jr. delivered the Presidential Proclamation naming October 11, 2021, Indigenous Peoples’ Day to be celebrated with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

WHEREAS in 2021, Oregon became the 11th state to pass legislation renaming the second Monday in October Indigenous Peoples’ Day; and

WHEREAS the school board commits to creating successful educational outcomes and ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for ALL students.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Salem-Keizer Public Schools Board of Directors proclaims November 2024 to be Native American Heritage Month and encourages all members of our community to join in celebrating our Native American, Alaska Native, and Indigenous students and families.



Cynthia Richardson, Chairperson, Board of Directors
Salem-Keizer Public Schools

November 12, 2024

Date