



**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
PROCLAMATION**

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

WHEREAS as the First Americans, 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 Indian Education provides services for Native American and Alaska Native students, such as tutoring, college and scholarship information, the Indian Education Graduation Celebration, monthly meetings for parents, and a culturally based academic summer program; and

WHEREAS nearly 1,700 students in SKPS identify as Alaska Natives or Native American; and

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

WHEREAS Native Americans and Alaska Natives have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations; and

WHEREAS in 2017, the Oregon Legislature enacted Senate Bill (SB) 13, now known as Tribal History/Shared History, for the implementation of curriculum about Indigenous peoples, and Salem-Keizer curriculum includes 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, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education and social crises; 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, ensure greater access and opportunity and honor our country’s indigenous roots, history and contributions; and

WHEREAS the school board commits to creating successful educational outcomes and ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for our Native American, Alaska Native and Indigenous students,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Salem-Keizer Public Schools Board of Directors proclaims November 2020 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.

Satya Chandragiri, Chairperson, Board of Directors
Salem-Keizer Public Schools

November 10, 2020

Date