

Eastmont Middle School

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HOME OF THE PATRIOTS

Marina Lowe
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JANICE R. STERZER
Principal
JIM RUESCH
Assistant Principal
CHRISTINE WADDELL
Assistant Principal

Dear Ms. Lowe,

I received your letter dated August 1, 2007 expressing concern about the inclusion of material relating to the L.D.S. Seminary released-time program in the memory book produced by our PTSA organization at the end of this school year.

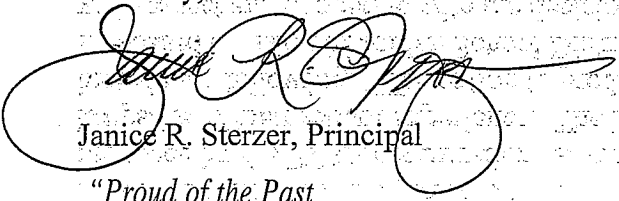
In Jordan School District, middle schools do not produce year books; however, “memory books” are produced by the PTSA organizations at most middle schools in order to provide students with a keepsake of their school experience. The District provides guidelines regarding memory books which include the following: “The option to produce a memory book at the middle school level is a voluntary, site-based decision of Jordan School District-sanctioned PTA or PTSA organizations only. Each school will respect and cooperate with the decision made . . .”, and “All complaints, requests, and questions will be directed to the PTA/PTSA volunteer in charge of the middle school memory book program.”

Although staff members at Eastmont do not prepare or distribute the memory book, it is always satisfying to us when the PTSA produces a book that provides an attractive and sensitive record of a positive school experience for students who wish to purchase a copy.

It is our goal that every student here at Eastmont Middle School feels valued and respected. We also want to promote practices that build a sense of community among our patrons. When I shared your letter with them, the PTSA Memory Book Committee members assured me that including the seminary-related material was not meant to promote the Seminary program or the LDS faith, but they now recognize, with regret, that the presentation in this year’s memory book was inappropriate. Seminary-related material was not included in the previous year’s memory book, and I will carefully monitor the content of future editions to help the PTSA Memory Book Committee avoid including material that is not appropriate.

I understand and share your concern, and thank you for writing. I am sincere in assuring you that we are committed to providing a positive and inclusive environment for our students in every way possible.

Sincerely,


Janice R. Sterzer, Principal

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Barry L. Newbold, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

