



## EXHIBIT A: The Memo

TO: Hamilton Middle School Students and Parents  
FROM: Bob Carter, Principal  
RE: Hamilton Middle School's New T-shirt Policy

Last year, many teachers saw students arguing about different kinds of music. Most of these arguments were caused by t-shirts that displayed a musical group. A few of the arguments were heated, and one even delayed the start of class until a teacher stepped in to stop the discussion. As a result, students may no longer wear clothing that refers to a musical group. This includes band t-shirts.

The purpose of the new rule is to make sure the learning environment in our schools is safe and effective. We hope the new dress code policy will prevent more serious arguments or fights from breaking out in our schools.

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## EXHIBIT B: Intercepted Note

Sarah,

Your Punk Frogs t-shirt is stupid! Everyone hates Punk Frogs. U better watch out after gym class..

Alyssa

## WITNESS: Kyle Miller, Ben's friend

*In response to a question from Ben Brewer's lawyer:*

I remember when Ben was suspended. We usually hang out at lunch and talk about music, so I was really bored while he was gone that week.

## WITNESS: Lisa Lennox, former student

*In response to a question from the school's lawyer:*

**A:** Last year I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Hamilton Middle School.

**Q:** And Do you remember anything happening at lunchtime involving Bobby Duran and his liking of some music?

**A:** Um... Last March I was sitting across from Bobby Duran, and he started singing a tune from the Latin rock band Suave. I figured it was his favorite band, because he was wearing a Suave t-shirt. I like Suave's music too, but Bobby's singing is like nails on a chalkboard, so I told him to knock it off. And so did my friend sitting next to me. We were all laughing at his horrible singing.

**Q:** And did Bobby react in any way?

**A:** Yeah! Bobby got all mad and said we don't know good music when we hear it, and some of his friends took his side, you know, telling him to keep singing. My friends and I just got up and moved to another table. And my English teacher Mr. Teller was standing near us and heard the whole thing, but he just ignored us.

*Cross-examination by Ben Brewer's lawyer:*

**Q:** Hi, Lisa. Why don't you tell the jury what it was that bothered you in the lunchroom that day. Was it the t-shirt Bobby was wearing?

**A:** No, we were just bothered by his singing.



*Cross-examination is questions by the lawyer who did not first call the witness to the stand.*

**WITNESS: Ms. Jones, math teacher**

*Questions from the school's lawyer:*

**Q:** Ms. Jones, what is your occupation?

**A:** I teach 8<sup>th</sup> grade math at Hamilton Middle School.

**Q:** Last school year, did you notice any arguments about t-shirts showing musical groups?

**A:** Yes, one last February.

**Q:** Please describe it to the jury.

**A:** It was a Friday, so my students are pretty wild anyway. Darin Bell and Sara Cooper came into class talking really loudly about Darin's t-shirt.

**Q:** What was pictured on Darin's t-shirt?

**A:** The shirt had this large photo of a popular rapper named 'Meter Man,' and above the photo were the words *Keep the Meter Runnin'*. Darin was arguing that Meter Man's music and lyrics were 'brilliant,' but Sara disagreed and thought Meter Man's music was 'repetitive' and just didn't compare to her alternative rock bands.

**Q:** What affect did this argument have on your math class?

**A:** Darin and Sarah were so loud that of course the other students, and they started taking sides and arguing about which band was better. But as soon as that bell rang, I told them they had to stop fighting and take their seats so I could begin the algebra lesson.

**Q:** Thank you. No further questions.

*Cross Examination by Ben Brewer's lawyer:*

**Q:** Ms. Jones, when you asked the students to stop their discussion, did they respond quickly?

**A:** Well, yes.

**Q:** So you were able to make it through your algebra lesson that day?

**A:** Yes, I got through the lesson.

**Q:** Great. No further questions, your honor.

**EXHIBIT C: Email to Principal Carter**

Bob,

I made a quick run to the supply room between classes last hour. Almost didn't make it back to start class in time because I had to break up an argument between a bunch of kids in the hall. It was about bands again. A few of them were wearing t-shirts from that concert all the kids were talking about Monday morning. I almost sent them to the office because I thought a fight was about to break out, but then they started laughing so I sent them to class instead. Thought you'd want to know.

Ms. Miller

**WITNESS: Tim Hyde, student**

DOC 90614

11/23/11

*In response to a question from the school's lawyer:*

**A:** Last April, we were taking a test in Miss Aguilara's Spanish class and I finished early and I got bored, so I started making faces at Joe, the guy sitting next to me.

**Q:** And do you remember Joe's t-shirt?

**A:** Yeah. It had some sort of heavy metal band on it. Joe was ignoring me, so I started making fun of his t-shirt. He told me to be quiet and the teacher was giving me this really mean glare, so I shut up.

# Lookin' for Evidence

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**WITNESS: Mia Donatella,**  
**student**

*In response to a question from Ben's lawyer:*

**A:** Yeah, I remember Darin and Sarah arguing about "Meter Man's" album before Algebra. Students like to wear band t-shirts to show off their favorite musicians. I like Meter Man, so I didn't agree with Sara at all.

**Q:** So how did the argument end?

**A:** As soon as the bell rang Ms. Jones told us to start class, so I switched my attention back to the teacher.



**WITNESS: Darin Ilijasic,**  
**student**

DOC#86-A

11/25/11

*In response to a question from Ben's lawyer:*

**A:** Yes, I remember my argument with Sara about Meter Man. It was last February. And I have to admit she had some pretty good points, and she was very convincing. But Meter Man is still my favorite band.

**Q:** So how did the argument end?

**A:** Ms. Jones told us to start class, so we sat down and stopped talking.

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**WITNESS: Principal Carter**

*Questions from the school's lawyer:*

**Q:** Tell the jury about the incidents the previous year, involving t-shirts.

**A:** Last year, I heard a reports from teachers that students were beginning to argue about their taste in music. Most of the arguments seemed to start because a student was wearing a t-shirt that displayed a popular band and showed what kind of music he or she likes.

**Q:** How did you respond to these reports?

**A:** Well, to prevent disruption of school activities this year, I added a section to the school's dress code. It prohibits wearing t-shirts that name or picture musical groups.

**Q:** Did Ben Brewer violate that new rule?

**A:** Yes, he did, by wearing a t-shirt naming the band "Hall of Rejects." I offered to let him turn the shirt inside-out, but he insisted on showing his favorite band to the whole world. I had no choice but to suspend him.

*Cross-examination by lawyer for Ben Brewer:*

**Q:** Last year, when you heard reports that students were having debates about their favorite bands, did any of those discussions cause any problems for the learning environment at your school?

**A:** Well no, but I could see that these arguments were adding up, and I needed to act to prevent problems in the new school year.

**Q:** And have t-shirts caused any problems during the new school year?

**A:** Not yet. I guess my new policy is working.

# Lookin' for Evidence

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>EVIDENCE THAT BAND T-SHIRTS DO CAUSE DISRUPTION</b>	<b>EVIDENCE THAT BAND T-SHIRTS DO NOT CAUSE DISRUPTION</b>
<b>EXHIBIT A: THE MEMO</b>	
<b>EXHIBIT B: THE NOTE</b>	
<b>WITNESS: KYLE</b>	
<b>WITNESS: LISA</b>	
<b>WITNESS: MS. JONES</b>	

# Lookin' for Evidence

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>EVIDENCE THAT BAND T-SHIRTS DO CAUSE DISRUPTION</b>	<b>EVIDENCE THAT BAND T-SHIRTS DO NOT CAUSE DISRUPTION</b>
<b>EXHIBIT C: THE EMAIL</b>	
<b>WITNESS: TIM</b>	
<b>WITNESS: MIA</b>	
<b>WITNESS: DARIN</b>	
<b>WITNESS: PRINCIPAL</b>	