

To Providers, Students, Parents, Families, and Teachers,

Dress Up for Downs is a newly-founded student organization at Kent State University (KSU). Our mission has three elements: 1) to partner with individuals in the Down syndrome community to develop garments that are age appropriate and customized to fit their body types; 2) to welcome individuals with Down syndrome to the KSU community for a variety of opportunities; and 3) to educate KSU community about Down syndrome and hold fundraisers.

To begin this semester, we have several on-campus events that we invite you to attend:

**Homecoming Carnival – Thursday, September 29th, 1-4 PM on Manchester Field, KSU**

This event is our main fundraiser for our Fall Fashion Show. Games, raffles, and carnival food will be at this fun event. Tickets may be purchased upon arrival to play the carnival games.

**Pajama/Movie Night – Friday, October 21st, 6-9 PM in the Student Center RM 310A, KSU**

All students and families are invited to join us for a Halloween-themed pajama and movie night. Popcorn and light snacks will be provided. This is a great opportunity for everyone to get to know one another! Feel free to bring your blankets, pillows or bean bags.

**Fairytale Fashion Show – Saturday, November 19th, 7-9 PM in Rockwell Auditorium RM 231, KSU** We are excited to present Dress Up for Downs’s first fashion. This show will feature models who worked with the Fashion School students to develop garments for their specific body types and personalities. We at the Fashion School understand the role clothing plays in helping individuals feel confident, beautiful and comfortable in their surroundings. Individuals who are ages 10 and older are welcome to participate.

We will hold additional meetings for individuals with Down syndrome and their families to get to know them, take body measurements, and practice for the fashion show. The dates and times are listed below:

**Thursday, October 6th, 7:30 PM** – Parents’ Information Night – Meet the organization’s officers and learn about the organization and the planned events.

**Saturday, October 15th , 2 PM–** Meet and greet with Dress Up for Downs and guest members. We will obtain measurements for the fashion show, do a personalized craft, and create a Model Profile to aid us in designing for our models.

 **Saturday, November 5th, 2 PM-** Fashion show rehearsal and final fittings!

If you have any other questions about Dress Up for Downs or would like to participate in the fashion show, feel free to contact us at dressupfordowns@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

The Dress Up for Downs Officers



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