

Memorial Guidelines

The Lakeland Joint School District recognizes that the loss of a student or staff member deeply impacts students, staff, families, and the community. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the District supports those impacted by a death in a kind and empathetic manner and consistent with Board policy. The district believes that remembrance of a student or staff member whose life ended during his/her years in the Lakeland Joint School District should be consistent from case to case, considerate of the grief process of family, friends, and co-workers, and in accordance with Board policy.

MEMORIALS

In recognition that schools are designed primarily to support learning, school sites should not serve as the main venue for the memorializing of students or staff. Memorial activities expressed at school need to be coordinated and approved through the Superintendent, Principal and Crisis Response Team (CRT) to ensure they best meet the overall needs of students, staff, parents and the community as a whole. Temporary memorials, as approved by the Principal, may be displayed within the school building or on school grounds until the day of the funeral, or within one week following the death, after which time they will be given to the family by designated district officials.

Student/staff memorials may be established if there is no cost to the school and prior consent of the deceased student's parents or guardians is given. Appropriate memorials include:

1. A memorial scholarship administered by the Lakeland Education Foundation.
2. Partnering with: the District's Life Awareness Community Coalition, local blood drive, local non-profit organizations, and other related activities.

3. Purchase of library books, school supplies or equipment on behalf of the deceased family. Acknowledgement should be labeled “Donated on behalf of the _____ family.”
4. Monetary funds designated to a particular school activity or department; or contributions by students/staff to memorials designated by the family to local charities.

The Board reserves the right to reject memorials in memory of a student or staff member if:

1. The memorial contains a name or picture of the deceased to be displayed in a building or on school grounds.
2. It requires the retirement or discontinued use of school property.
3. It requires the altering of property or publications.
4. It requires altering of school activities in any way.
5. It requires public funds to purchase, develop, or maintain.
6. It obligates the district in the future that could have an adverse effect on the education of students.

School district facilities will not be used for formal memorial services or funerals. However, the Superintendent, in consultation with the CRT, has the discretion to consider memorial events that utilize district facilities when the death of a student or staff member has a significant impact on a majority of students, staff and community, but the service cannot be held during the school day and should not disrupt school events. In a situation where informal events or gatherings such as a candlelight vigil, etc., which are not school sponsored, occur on district grounds, school administration must be notified.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

The graduation ceremony is reserved for the celebration of scholastic achievement and the anticipation of future opportunities available to all of the graduates of the Lakeland Joint School District. One symbol representing all deceased members of a graduating class, such as a plant or bouquet of flowers, may be present on stage. A member of the school administration can also direct the audience in a moment of silence to collectively recognize deceased members of the

graduating class. The school administration will work together with the family of a deceased student to properly recognize the student's completion of high school. A member of the family will be invited to accept the diploma prior to the awarding of diplomas to all graduates. A family may request a cap and gown in memory of a deceased student.

COMMUNITY MEMBER MEMORIALS

As an integral part of acknowledging citizen participation in public school improvement, proposals to locate memorial plaques within district buildings, in recognition of citizens who made significant contributions to public education in the district, will be considered by the School Board. Former students, employees, or taxpayers may be considered for such recognition upon their passing. The district may hold appropriate dedication ceremonies.

Legal Reference:

Policy History:

Adopted on: August 28, 2018