

RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES IN SCHOOLS

Background

The Board of School Directors recognizes that it is appropriate to advance students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that religious heritage has played in the social, cultural, and historical development of civilization. While education in this area can be provided, no religious belief or non-belief shall be promoted by or within the District and none shall be disparaged. Instead, the District should encourage all students and staff members to appreciate and be respectful of each other's religious views.

Objective

It is the objective of this policy to foster an understanding of and respect for the religious beliefs and customs of others in a manner which will neither promote any particular religion nor discriminate against any student or group.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board that:

1. Religious heritage and their histories, arts, symbols, and tenets may properly be included within a program of secular education. Such studies must be objective in nature and directly related to the broader educational purposes in the various fields of study.
2. At no time shall any form of religious belief or non-belief be advanced or disparaged, nor shall any form of religious indoctrination or District-sponsored exercise be permitted.
3. The historical and contemporary significance and the symbols and origins of religious holidays may be studied within the parameters of this policy.
4. School programs and performances may be conducted in connection with holidays, including those of religious origin. Music, art, literature, and drama related to such holidays may be studied and performed in such programs if presented in an objective and neutral manner as a tradition of the cultural and religious heritage of the particular holiday.

Administrative Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the Administration to develop and enforce any administrative procedures deemed necessary to implement this Policy.

Communication

This Policy shall be communicated to:

1. District Staff
2. The Mt. Lebanon Community

Adopted July 20, 1992
Revised August 15, 2005
Reviewed February 8, 2016
Revised October 17, 2022