

July 18, 2024

Dear MPS Parents and Guardians,

I hope you had a great summer and that this letter finds you and your family well. As we approach the beginning of a new academic year, we want to share information on new district systems and a recent state education topic to keep you connected and informed.

OSDE Supt. Walters' Memo Regarding Classroom Curriculum, 5-12th

A [recent memo](#) was sent to school districts from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction concerning the use of foundational texts in Oklahoma classrooms.

The state-approved curriculum that MPS adopted adheres to the current [Oklahoma State Academic Standards](#) (OSAS). The current standards acknowledge the significant influence of various religions in the development of world history and culture. Studies include discussions on the impact of religion in shaping societies, traditions, and historical events. MPS has adhered to these standards since their implementation in 2019.

MPS students have been and will continue to be allowed to bring their own religious texts, including the Bible, and additionally, are not prohibited from using their library access and/or district-provided technology devices to access religious texts.

However, it is important to clarify that while students learn about *religion's role* in historical and cultural contexts, **teaching any specific religious doctrine or practice is not a part of the current standards.**

Our goal is to continue providing a respectful environment that acknowledges various perspectives while adhering to the set and approved Oklahoma educational standards. As an additional resource, we have provided a few examples from the current Oklahoma State Academic Standards where religious references are made on page two.

Back to School Night & First Day of School

The first day of school is Thurs., Aug. 8. Elementary schools have back-to-school night from 4-6 p.m., Tues., Aug. 6, where you can meet teachers, tour your school, sign up for PTA, and drop off supplies.

Be sure to:

- Sign up for [Parent Portal](#). Email enrollment@mooreschools.com for info.
- Get the **ParentSquare** App for district communications. Learn more: mooreschools.com/ParentSquare
- Get the app and/or register for **LINQ Connect** [here](#). It's our new meal payment method.
- Get **elementary school supply lists** [here](#).
- **Junior high and high school supply lists** are provided on the first day of class

We look forward to another year of student learning and growth and we appreciate your support and involvement in your student's education. As always, contact me with any questions or concerns at robertromines@mooreschools.com.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robert Romines, Superintendent

Examples of religious references in current Oklahoma State Academic Standards curriculum:

5.2.4 Analyze the forms of self-government in the three colonial regions including the role of religion in the establishment of some colonial governments, the Virginia House of Burgesses, and New England town hall meetings.

6.3.2 Identify and describe cultural traits of language, ethnic heritage, religion, and traditions practiced among peoples.

7.3.3 Evaluate the impact of a region's major religions, including geographic hearths, major beliefs, customs, and the significance of religion in contemporary societies; explain how religion can both unify or divide people.

OKH.1.4 Compare cultural perspectives of American Indians and European Americans regarding land ownership, structure of self-government, religion, and trading practices.

WG.3.1 Assess the spatial dimensions of culture as defined by language, religion, ethnicity, and gender.

WG.3.5 Explain how cultural characteristics, such as language, ethnicity, and religion impact different regions.

WH.1.1 Evaluate the impact of geography and trade on the development of culture in Africa, Asia, and Europe including religion, philosophy, and political belief.

WH.1.2 Describe the origins, major beliefs, spread and lasting impact of the world's major religions and philosophies, including Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Confucianism, and Sikhism.

WH.2.2 Summarize the causes of and influence of the theological movements of the Reformation and how those movements subsequently transformed society.

WH.2.5 Compare the various forms of government established by: A. divine right rule, such as the Mandate of Heaven in China and absolutism in England and France B. Magna Carta in England, the English Civil War, and the Glorious Revolution C. enlightened monarchs such as Catherine the Great and Frederick the Great.