

Memorials on School Property

Bismarck Public Schools recognizes that the death of a student, staff member, school board member, or community member deeply impacts the school community. Yet the District holds the responsibility to protect schools as places designed primarily to support learning. Any memorials for deceased students, staff, school board members, or community members shall be limited in form to awards or scholarships funded through private dollars. School property shall not serve as a venue for permanent memorials for students, staff, school board members, or community members.

Any permanent memorials in existence before this policy was adopted can only be removed by a decision of the Superintendent based on at least one of the following criteria:

1. The memorial poses a safety risk to students, staff, or district operations.
2. The memorial obstructs the expansion or remodeling of district facilities.
3. The memorial is part of a district building or district grounds that the District is now selling.
4. Funding to maintain the memorial is no longer available.
5. The memorial brings inappropriate recognition to an individual based on community standards.
6. Other reason deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

If the Superintendent deems appropriate, the memorial may be relocated. Any salvageable portion of a permanently removed memorial may be offered to family of the deceased, if locatable. The District will make every effort to communicate with a family member if a memorial needs to be moved. The Director of Facilities and Transportation will maintain a list of all district memorials.