Ceremonies and Observances

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) directs that the school administration provide students and staff with appropriate direction and guidance regarding ceremonies and observances.

Holiday Celebrations and Observances

The school administration is responsible for monitoring compliance with this policy. Pertinent information will be included in the student-parent and staff handbooks.

Recognition of Religious Holidays

The objective study of religious holidays provides a natural opportunity to promote an appreciation for and respect for diversity. Learning opportunities should extend beyond Judeo-Christian beliefs; reflecting the diversity of global cultures.

1. Recognition of religious holidays will not dominate the educational program and must support curricular objectives.
2. All religions must be afforded equal dignity, but none advanced nor disparaged.
3. Decorations which are part of custom, that have no direct religious meaning (Christmas tree, Menorah) may be displayed. Tree decoration should not promote religion nor require student participation.
4. Programs should focus on seasonal rather than religious themes' inclusive of concerts, enrichment programs, and Parent-Teacher Organization sales.
5. Performances that recognize holidays must be of an artistic nature, not religious. Religious music must not dominate any school program. Program selections should not, by their nature, exclude students from participation.
6. Parents/guardians may exclude their children from programs involving the recognition of religious holidays or if a celebration is in conflict with family beliefs. A written request for exclusion should be sent to the school administration.

United States Flag

The American Flag shall be raised above Bethany Community School during all school sessions, weather permitting. The Flag shall be raised before the opening of school and taken down at its close every day.

The American Flag shall be displayed in each classroom each day school is in session.

The Pledge of Allegiance

In accordance with state law, the Board shall ensure that a period of time is set aside each school day to allow those students who wish to do so the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This policy shall not be construed to require any person to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, should he/she choose not to do so.

Silent Meditation

The Board directs that the school administration shall provide for students and staff the opportunity to observe an appropriate period of time for silent meditation at the beginning of each school day.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-16a
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-230
No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

Policy adopted: November 13, 2002
Policy revised: June 10, 2015
Policy revised: March 15, 2017
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