

Memorials

Purpose

The Fargo Public School District (“District”) recognizes that the loss of a member of the school community is deeply felt by students, staff, and families. Following the loss of a student or staff member, the primary focus of staff will be on helping staff, students, and families, affected by a death to make connections to appropriate school and community resources.

The District recognizes the importance of honoring and remembering students and staff members who have passed away. This policy aims to provide clear guidelines for acceptable forms of memorials that ensure equity for all students and families, respect the educational environment, and maintain the integrity of school property and operations. By adhering to these guidelines, we honor the memory of our loved ones in meaningful and sustainable ways.

Acceptable Memorials

All memorials must be funded through private donations and must not impose a financial burden on the District.

Scholarships:

- Establishment of scholarships in the name of the deceased to support students in their academic and extracurricular pursuits.
- Scholarships must be funded through private donations and are managed by the Fargo Public Schools Development Foundation (“Foundation”).

Donations to Charities or Programs:

- Contributions made directly to charities or programs that align with the values and mission of the District.
- Donations can be directed to organizations dedicated to helping students or supporting causes important to the deceased.

Dedicated Programs:

- Creation or support of programs that benefit students, such as tutoring, mentorship, mental health services, or extracurricular activities.
- Programs should align with the educational goals and policies of the District. Donations can be made directly to the Foundation in honor of the deceased.

Donation of Books or Items with Educational Significance:

- Donation of books or other educational materials to school libraries or classrooms.
- Materials must align with the educational goals and policies of the District and be approved by the District Curriculum Advisory Committee to ensure appropriateness and relevance.

Unacceptable Memorials**Altering School Property or Schedule:**

- Memorials that require physical changes to school buildings or grounds, including but not limited to, planting trees, installing benches, or erecting monuments, are not permitted.
- Memorials that disrupt the school schedule or require adjustments to the academic calendar or daily routines are not allowed.

Use of Public Funds:

- Memorials that require the use of public funds for purchase, development, or ongoing maintenance are prohibited.

Plaques Attached to School Property:

- Memorial plaques or signs attached to objects on school property, such as walls, furniture, or equipment, are not allowed.

Previously Established Memorials

Memorials established before the initial adoption of this policy will be handled as follows:

- **Trees** – Trees will remain in place unless renovations, age or disease dictate removal. Upon the demise/removal of the tree, the District will assess the replacement of the tree with a species and location of its choosing as it would with any other tree. The District will attempt to return any associated plaques to the family.
- **Benches** – Benches will remain in place unless renovations dictate removal. If the bench is still in serviceable condition and must be moved, the District will choose the best location for the bench. If the bench must be removed and is not in serviceable condition, the District will attempt to return any associated plaques to the family.
- **Granite and Brick** - Granite and/or bricks will remain in place unless renovations dictate removal. Upon removal, the district will attempt to return any plaques to the family.
- **Shadow Box/Plaque** – Shadow boxes/plaques will remain in place unless renovations dictate removal. Upon removal, the district will attempt to return the shadow box/plaques to the family.

Attempts will be made to return memorial plaques and shadow boxes to families for up to six months. The home school will maintain possession of the items during this time.

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