Business

Memorials

The Academy recognizes that the loss of a member of our community is deeply felt by all. We are committed to supporting students and staff members impacted by the tragic loss of a student or colleague. Given the central role The Academy plays in the lives of our community, many individuals may feel the need to establish a memorial as a way to cope, heal, and remember.

Since The Academy is primarily dedicated to supporting learning, this policy ensures that memorials are appropriate and aligned with our mission and values. Memorials will be limited to students who have passed during their time of attendance or staff who have passed while working at The Academy. This policy does not restrict the Board from naming areas or facilities on campus in honor of individuals.

This policy will not limit the creation of a scholarship, which is governed and managed by The Woodstock Academy Foundation.

Permanent Memorials

Given the personal, emotional, and sensitive nature of permanent memorials, each must receive written approval from the student's parents or the family of the staff member. Based on the recommendations of grief experts, it is advised that at least 4-6 months pass after the loss before any permanent memorial is considered. Once family approval is received and the appropriate amount of time has passed, the Head of School will make a recommendation to the Board for final approval.

Temporary Memorials

Temporary memorials may be placed only in locations approved by the Head of School. They will remain in place for no more than 10 days. After this period, the items will be offered to the family. If the family disapproves of the memorial, it will be removed immediately.

Living Memorials

A living memorial—such as a tree, garden, or bench—may be established in a location approved by the Head of School. Like permanent memorials, living memorials must also receive written approval from the student's parents or the family of the staff member.

Policy Adopted: February 18, 2025

The Woodstock Academy
Woodstock, Connecticut