

MILITARY RECOGNITION

The legislature of the state of Oklahoma has designated the second Tuesday of April as the Oklahoma National Guard and the 45th Infantry Division Appreciation Day. The school district may consider planning an event to show appreciation for the brave and courageous deeds exhibited by the members of the Oklahoma National Guard and 45th Infantry Division.

The legislature of the state of Oklahoma has also designated the date of November 11 as "Veterans Day" and the week in which November 11 falls is hereby designated "Celebrate Freedom Week" for the public schools of Oklahoma. If the date of November 11 falls on a Saturday or Sunday or if classes are not in regular session, Veterans Day will be observed on the preceding school day. If Veterans Day falls on a Sunday, the following week will be Celebrate Freedom Week.

The Bethel Board of Education shall ensure that on Veterans Day each school in this district will conduct and observe an appropriate program of at least one class period to remember and honor American veterans. If scheduling allows, the schools may choose to have a moment of silence beginning at 11:00 a.m. on November 11 of each year. This activity is intended to serve to educate students about the termination of World War I at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918.

During Celebrate Freedom Week, students in grades three through twelve shall study and recite the following text:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Students may be excused from the recitation of the text set forth above if:

1. The parent or guardian of the student submits to the school district a written request that the student be excused;
2. As determined by the school districts, the student has a conscientious objections to the recitation; or
3. The student is the child of representative of a foreign government to whom the United State government extends diplomatic immunity.

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §24-152