Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD **Policy #4311.1**

(X) Required
( ) Local
( ) Notice

DISPLAY OF THE FLAG, PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

The Board of Education believes that the flag of the United States is a symbol of the values of our nation and the ideals embedded in our Constitution. Appropriate patriotic ceremonies and observances will be conducted in the schools in the light of sound educational goals and practices and in compliance with the letter and spirit of federal laws and regulations.

Display of the Flag

The District shall display a United States flag upon or near every school building. There shall be a flag on display in every assembly room of every school.

The flag shall be flown at full-or half-staff pursuant to law. In addition, the flag may be flown at half-staff to commemorate the death of a present or former Board member, present employee or student.

Consistent with federal law and regulations and this policy, the Superintendent of Schools shall develop rules and regulations for the proper custody, care and display of the flag.

Patriotic Ceremonies and Observances

Each ceremony or observance will be conducted in such a manner as to stress the meaning behind the verbalization or action. Thus, it will contribute to the development of good citizenship through understanding, appreciation of, and pride in, our nation's history, our democratic form of government and our ideal of world peace.

Specific patriotic ceremonies and observances, in addition to the daily flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance are to be conducted in accordance with regulations to be prepared under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools.

Ref: 4 U.S.C. §§5-9 (display of the flag)
Education Law §§418; 419; 420 (requirement for the school to purchase, display and develop rules and regulations for the care and custody of the flag)
Executive Law §§400-403 (rules for display of the flag)
8 NYCRR Part 108 (flag regulations)

Adoption date: April 21, 2015
Amended: March 18, 2026

DISPLAY OF THE FLAG, PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES REGULATION

DISPLAY OF THE FLAG

Flags Displayed Out-of-Doors and on Movable Hoists Indoors

A United States flag shall be displayed in front of every school building in the District every day that school is in session and at such other times as the Superintendent of Schools shall direct. Unless otherwise stated, the flags shall be flown at full-staff. The flags may also be displayed at night if illuminated, or upon special occasions, at the discretion of the Superintendent, when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect.

In addition to days when school is in session, the flags will be displayed on the following days if school is open to the public: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, September 11th Remembrance Day, POW/MIA Recognition Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Pearl Harbor Day and Christmas Day. If any of these days (except Flag Day) falls on a Sunday, the flag shall be displayed on the next day. In addition, the flag shall be displayed on each general election day and each day appointed by the President of the United States or by the Governor of New York as a day of general thanksgiving or for displaying the flag.

Flags shall be flown at half-staff on Pearl Harbor Day, on September 11th Remembrance Day, on days commemorating the death of a personage of great importance, and on days designated by the President or the Governor.

Flags on individual buildings may be flown at half-staff for 7 days if a present employee or student in that building dies. All flags in the district are flown at half-staff on the day of the funeral of a present employee or a present student. The flag shall also be flown at half-staff the day of the funeral of any former staff member well-known in the school. This will be at the discretion of the Superintendent.

All flags in the District are to be flown at half-staff when a present or past Board member dies and are kept at half-staff for 7 days.

Hoisting of the Flag

The flag shall be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

In half staffing the flag, it first should be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag shall be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. The flag shall never be put at half mast in the middle of the day. It must be put at half mast in the morning only.

Indoor Flags and Those Not on Movable Hoists

There shall be a United States flag in each assembly room of every school in the District. It is the duty of the teacher or other person in charge of each assembly room to ensure that the flag in the room is displayed from a staff standing at the audience's right as they face the stage. If the flag is placed on the platform, it should stand at the right of the speaker as he/she faces the audience and at the audience's left as they face the stage.

PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

Appropriate patriotic ceremonies and observances shall be conducted in the schools in the light of sound educational goals and practices and in compliance with the letter and spirit of federal and state laws and regulations.

Each ceremony or observance shall be conducted in such a manner as to stress the meaning behind the verbalization or action. Where appropriate, the proper etiquette will be stressed. Thus, it will contribute to the development of good citizenship through understanding and appreciation of, and pride in, our nation’s history, our democratic form of government and our ideal of world peace.

In addition to the daily flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance, specific patriotic ceremonies and observances will be prepared under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools.

Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance

There shall be a daily salute to the flag and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag in each classroom in compliance with salute and Pledge of Allegiance in assemblies and other appropriate large group school activities. A flag on a staff has been mounted at the front of each classroom for this purpose. The following pledge will be given while standing with the right hand over the heart:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Instruction Relating to the Flag

In compliance with the State Law, students shall receive instruction in the correct use, observance**,** and display of the flag, its meaning and its symbolism. This shall not be construed to authorize military instruction or drill.

Patriotic Anthems

"The Star Spangled Banner," "America, the Beautiful," "America," or other officially espoused anthems, which are part of our national heritage, should be used in appropriate educational activities. When The Star Spangled Banner is played all those present will be instructed to stand with their right hand over their heart.

Observation of Special Holidays

In compliance with State Law, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Veteran's Day and Columbus Day holidays shall be observed in the schools. Each school may observe these holidays in its own way. Such observances shall be directed toward a deeper understanding of our one nation and to the ideal of world peace.

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