



Knights View Elementary Student Free Speech Spirit Rock Policy

*The decorating of the Knights View Elementary School Spirit Rock is subject to **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Board Policy S-SFRS – Student Free Speech**. Nothing in this school-based policy should be interpreted to contradict Board Policy in any way.*

The Spirit Rock is intended to promote school spirit and provide families, students, staff, and school-affiliated organizations with an opportunity to celebrate student achievements, birthdays, milestones, and school-sponsored events. Use of the Spirit Rock is considered a privilege and must comply with this policy and all applicable CMS Board policies.

Content and Acceptable Use

The Spirit Rock may be used only for the following purposes:

- Student birthdays
- Staff birthdays, and appreciation
- Student and staff school-based accomplishments and achievements
- School-sponsored events and activities

Reservation, Approval, and Access

Who May Reserve

The Spirit Rock may be reserved by:

- Current Knights View Elementary School students, with adult supervision, and their parents/guardians or immediate family members
- Knights View Elementary School staff
- Officially recognized Knights View Elementary School clubs, organizations, teams, or PTA-sponsored groups

How to Reserve

Reservations must be made through the school's designated reservation system.

Requests should be submitted at least 48 hours prior to the requested reservation date.

Reservation requests should include:

- Name of the individual making the reservation
- Name of the student or group being recognized
- Names of all individuals who will be painting the rock, including any third-party artists
- The exact wording to be painted on the rock and a description of any images, designs, artwork that will be included.



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A reservation is not considered confirmed until the application is submitted and approved by the principal. The Spirit Rock is available to reserve at no cost. Donations are welcome and may be submitted through Online School Payments. All donations directly support our school. Donations are nonrefundable.

Approval Process

The Principal or the Principal's designee will review reservation requests in accordance with Board Policy S-SFRS and this policy

Reservations are granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

No proposal that complies with this policy and Board Policy S-SFRS will be denied based on viewpoint, including religious or political perspective.

If an application is denied, the applicant may appeal using the procedures outlined in Board Policy S-SCOM.

Reservation Period

Reservations run from 5:00 p.m. on the reserved day through 4:59 p.m. the following day.

Only the reserving party may decorate the Spirit Rock during that reservation period.

Messages may remain displayed beyond one school day only if there are no subsequent confirmed reservations.

Reservation Frequency

To ensure fair access, each student, family, staff member, or officially recognized school group may reserve the Spirit Rock no more than once per month.

Paint, Safety, and Cleanup

- Students must provide written permission from their parent/guardian, and the parent/guardian must sign an assumption of risk form.
- Only latex or water-based paint may be used.
- Spray paint may not be used near vehicles, sidewalks, or buildings.
- Grass and surrounding landscaping should be protected with a drop cloth.
- Do not paint sidewalks, curbs, trees, buildings, fences, or the ground surrounding the Spirit Rock.
- Ladders or scaffolding is not permitted.
- Individuals may paint only the portions of the rock that can be safely reached.
- Users are responsible for providing all paint and supplies.
- All materials, trash, and supplies must be removed immediately after decorating.



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- Users are responsible for cleaning the surrounding area after use.

The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged materials or supplies.

Restricted Speech

As provided in CMS Board Policy S-SFRS, depending upon the facts and circumstances, the school may deny an application, remove or paint over a message, or otherwise restrict expression on the Spirit Rock if the planned or actual message constitutes:

1. Disruptive speech;
2. Speech that invades the rights of other students;
3. Profane speech; or
4. Promotion of illegal drug use.

Please refer to Board Policy S-SFRS for the complete definitions and descriptions of these categories.

Administrative Oversight and Policy Enforcement

School administration may review and monitor Spirit Rock messages at any time.

The Spirit Rock may be covered, cleaned, or painted over if this policy, Board Policy S-SFRS, or any other CMS Board policy is violated.

Removal of non-compliant content may occur without prior notice.

Violations of this policy may result in:

- Loss of future Spirit Rock reservation privileges;
- Removal or covering of the displayed message;
- For students, disciplinary consequences consistent with the CMS Code of Student Conduct, administered fairly, objectively, and without regard to viewpoint.

Right to Amend

Knights View Elementary School reserves the right to modify or amend this policy at any time to ensure the Spirit Rock continues to serve as a positive and appropriate representation of the school community and remains consistent with CMS Board policies.

By reserving or decorating the Spirit Rock, participants acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with this policy.

Questions:

Summer Rogers



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Principal
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