

Lakeland Joint School District #272

Office of the Superintendent

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June 24th, 2026

Lakeland Joint School District Families,

Please be aware of the following change for the 2026-27 school year. Beginning **July 1, 2026**, a new Idaho law (House Bill 623) requires all K-12 public schools in the state to observe a “moment of silence” at the start of each school day. *For any students attending summer school, this practice will go into effect next Wednesday.*

The law requires that each school day begin with a moment of silence lasting at least 60 seconds. During this time, students will be asked to remain quiet, and no other classroom activities will take place. Your student may choose to use it to reflect, meditate, pray, or engage in a practice they find meaningful, as long as it does not disturb others.

District guidance to teachers is that the moment of silence will generally be observed after the Pledge of Allegiance in the morning, and will not take more than about 60 seconds.

Other than being taught the new daily routine and encouraging students to respect their classmates’ use of the time, students will not be guided by staff in how they choose to use the moment of silence. The time is intended to be neutral and to respect students' beliefs and values.

This may be more challenging for younger students, and teachers may need to provide more structure to the moment of silence as is appropriate for the age and capability of their students. For example, teachers may cue the moment of silence with soft music, a projected countdown timer, or use as-needed verbal reminders to students to be respectful of others.

We encourage you to talk with your students about how they might use this time.

If you have any questions about the moment of silence or how it will be implemented, please don't hesitate to reach out to the LJSD Office at (208) 687-0431 or info@lakeland272.org.

Respectfully,

Jake Massey

Interim Superintendent