



Ottawa Hills
Local Schools

Dr. Bill Miller <broadcasts@schoolmessengermail.com>
Reply-To: info@ohschools.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2026, at 3:15 PM

Ottawa Hills Local Schools Families,

The District understands there are some concerns regarding religious instruction and our public school. Please be advised of three pieces of governing language:

Ohio Revised Code 3313.6022 (<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3313.6022>) Requires every Ohio school district to adopt a policy allowing students to be excused for a “released time” religious instruction course. Under this state law:

- Participation is voluntary and requires a parent’s or guardian’s written consent.
- Courses are run by private organizations, off school property.
- No public funds are spent and no school staff are involved in the instruction.
- The sponsoring organization handles transportation and assumes liability.
- Students may not miss core academic classes to attend.

Ottawa Hills Local Schools Policy 5223 (<https://go.neola.com/ohschools-oh/policy/policy-manual/po5223>) This is the District’s policy carrying out this state requirement. It adds that staff may neither promote nor discourage participation in any program.

Ottawa Hills Local Schools Policy 5730 (<https://go.neola.com/ohschools-oh/policy/policy-manual/po5730>) This policy carries out the federal Equal Access Act. During non-instructional time, such as lunch, student-initiated clubs may meet regardless of religious, political, or philosophical content. District employees may not promote, lead, or participate in those meetings. A staff member may be present only to supervise, and the meetings must not disrupt instruction.

While we value the diversity of our community, we cannot offer instruction in any single religion within our buildings. We also cannot restrict any entity meeting ORC requirements from offering these programs.

If you are ever unsure about where to direct a concern regarding our District’s policies, you are encouraged to contact the school directly at info@ohschools.org.

Dr. Bill Miller
Interim Superintendent, Ottawa Hills Local Schools