

Flag Displays and Salutes

Traditional customs and practices of displaying the U.S. flag are outlined below for school use.

Salute to the Flag

Appropriate student assemblies/exercises may include *The Pledge of Allegiance* to the flag.

Displaying the Flag

1. When the flag is displayed flat, either horizontally or vertically, on a wall or window, the union (or blue field) should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (to the observer's left when facing flag).
2. When displayed on a stage or a platform in front of an audience, the U.S. flag should be placed in the position of honor to the speaker's right. Any other flag should be at the speaker's left. If displayed in the body of an auditorium or hall, the U.S. flag should be to the right of the audience as it faces the speaker, with any other flag to the left of the audience.
3. When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window sill, balcony or front of a building, the union should be at the staff's peak (unless flag is to be displayed at half-staff). When suspended from a rope between a building and a pole at the edge of a sidewalk, the flag should be raised out from the building toward the pole, union first.
4. When displayed with another flag from crossed staff, the U.S. flag should be on its own right, with its staff in front of the staff of the other flag.
5. When other flags are displayed from staffs with the U.S. flag, the latter should be at the center or at the highest point of the group.
6. When pennants or other flags are flown on the same halyard with the U.S. flag, the latter should always be at the peak.
7. When the flags of two or more nations are displayed, they should be flown from separate staffs of the same height.
8. When carried in a parade with another flag or flags, the U.S. flag should be on the marching right.
9. When carried in a parade with a line of flags of states, cities or organizations, the U.S. flag should always be carried in front of the center of that line.

Flying the Flag at Half-Staff

When the flag is to be flown at half-staff, it should be raised to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position but before the flag is lowered for the day, it should again be raised to the peak.

The U.S. flag is to be flown at half-staff at the following times:

1. For 30 days after the death of a President or former President of the United States;
2. For 10 days after the death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired chief justice or the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
3. From the day of death until burial of an associate justice of the Supreme Court, a member of the Cabinet, a former vice president, the Secretaries of the Army, Navy or Air Force or the Governor of a state, territory or possession;
4. On the day of death and the following day for a U.S. senator or representative or the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico.

In the event of death of other officials, former officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to presidential instructions or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law.

Disposal of Worn Flags

When the U.S. flag is no longer a fitting emblem for display because of wear or damage, it should be forwarded to the director of maintenance. It shall be destroyed by burning in a container separate from other materials.