

### **Teaching about Religion**

While dealing with religious issues the district will adhere to the following:

1. While neutral concerning religious belief, the district will foster respect for each individual's convictions about religion and an understanding and respect for all religions;
2. Factual and objective teaching about religions is approved, but advocacy of a particular religion is prohibited;
3. Instruction in morality, ethics and values is approved, but such instruction shall not constitute the endorsement of the beliefs and principles of any particular religious group;
4. Passages from the Bible or other religious documents may be studied for historical or literary instructional purposes, but reading may not be used for devotional purposes or to influence religious beliefs;
5. Neither instructional materials nor assembly programs shall be used to promote or encourage nonreligion, partisan religious viewpoints, religious groups or partisan religious activities;
6. Religious music as a part of a secular program or concert shall be permitted if presented in a prudent and objective manner. School choruses, bands, orchestras and other groups may accept invitations to perform at nonschool religious functions only if members of the group may be excused at their request without penalty;
7. Art which has a religious theme may be displayed and studied for its artistic and aesthetic value but may not be used for devotional purposes or to influence religious beliefs;
8. No district funds shall be used to purchase an intended devotional display or religious symbols, nor may such items be displayed except in an occasional educational exhibit for the purposes of familiarizing students with religious symbols used by a variety of different groups;
9. Student's religious beliefs shall be honored by excusing him/her without penalty at his/her parent's request from school attendance on religious holidays officially recognized by the student's religious faith, where attendance at religious activities or abstinence from secular activities is required by the faith. However, students shall be responsible for making up all school work missed on those days;
10. Parents may request, on behalf of the student, that school requirements be modified to accommodate the student's religious beliefs. The principal will review such requests and may hold a conference with the parents and, if appropriate, the student to discuss the request and inform the parents of the district's decision.