

TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION

The following guidelines will be used in planning and conducting studies and activities that have a relationship to religion.

CULTURAL MATERIALS - There will be no ban on cultural materials having a religious origin at any time during the school year so long as the material to be used or studied is of educational value to the classes concerned.

COURSE CONTENT - Where religion is properly a part of course content, it must remain, as in any academic subject, in its normal perspective. Inclusion of sacred writings, music, and arts in the educational program of the schools is to be based on their having independent educational merits. Course content should generally be determined by the faculty, through appropriate committees, and specifically by individual instructors. While explanation of a religious belief may be called for, classes will not be used for religious instruction.

PROGRAMS - All school programs shall serve an educational or cultural purpose. They are to be simply staged and costumed. Time spend in preparation shall be in proportion to educational value.

Public performances of music and the arts which include religious content should do so on the independent educational merits of the inclusion and should seek to give exposure to many cultures and religious expressions.

MUSIC - Music with religious themes, including Christmas carols, are accepted when studied and performed as music.

ART - Individual student expressions portraying religious symbols or scenes are acceptable as long as the teacher does not require that projects assigned embody a sectarian belief.

PRAYER - Prescribed prayer will be omitted from the formal school program. For student groups in which membership is elective, prayer is a matter of personal preference.

RESPECT FOR BELIEFS OF OTHERS - Students, teachers, and all school district personnel are expected to show respect for those persons subscribing to religious beliefs differing from their own.

Adopted: 10/14/85

Reviewed: 11/09/98