

10.11 SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES/PATRIOTIC EXERCISES

The Board of Education believes one's appreciation of country is promoted by the ceremonies and observances held in the schools, and that the United States flag is a symbol of our democratic heritage, ideals and freedom. It is the belief of the Board of Education that good citizenship skills must be taught in the schools.

The flag of the United States shall be raised above each school and/or at other appropriate places during all school sessions, weather permitting. The flag shall be raised before the opening of school and taken down at its close every day.

Furthermore, the Board requires that an observance be scheduled each year on or about Veterans Day to convey the meaning and significance of that day to all students and staff.

Professional staff members are authorized to lead students in the Pledge of Allegiance at an appropriate time each school day. The words used in the oral recitation of the pledge of allegiance shall not be altered from those in federal law (4 United States Code 4).

However, the Board recognizes that the beliefs of some students prohibit participation in the Pledge of Allegiance or other opening exercises, and these students, therefore, are excused, and the intimidation of any student by other students or staff aimed at coercing participation is prohibited.

Board approved 11/19/2009