

8821 CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

Religious Ceremonies

The Supreme Court of the United State in two significant decisions declared it illegal to hold formal, prescribed religious exercises in the public school. (The Engel decision on State-adopted prayer, 1962, and the Schempp decision on Bible reading, 1963). Accordingly, no school activities are permitted which take on the character of religious devotions.

The flag of the United States of America shall be raised above each school house and at other appropriate places during all school sessions and on all legal school holidays, weather permitting. The flag shall be raised before the opening of school and taken down at its close every day. The flag will be displayed in each classroom.

Holidays and Special Events

Holidays and special events may be recognized in our schools within the mores of our culture so long as such recognition respects the rights and feelings of minorities and is consistent with law.

Songs and customs which have come to us from the various ethnic and racial segments of our population may be used so as to broaden the awareness of our pupils to the contributions which each such segment has made to the composite American culture.

No public funds may be used in any way to benefit sectarianism in our public schools. No books, papers or utterances of a sectarian character shall be used except for instructional purposes.

Appropriate exercises shall be held on the last school day preceding:

- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
- Lincoln's Birthday
- Washington's Birthday
- Memorial Day
- Columbus Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Day

Suitable exercises are also required by law in all public schools in observance of Flag Day, Arbor Day, and Commodore Barry Day.

Adopted: 14 April 2010

