

***MANDATORY***

**SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES/PATRIOTIC EXERCISES**

The Board recognizes its responsibility to instill patriotism, which in part, includes saluting the flag and oral reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. It also believes that one's appreciation of this Country is promoted by ceremonies and observances held in the schools.

Accordingly, all students and staff in the District's schools are encouraged to begin each day with an oral recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag. No classroom teacher is prohibited from providing a reasonable period of time for recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance used in this District shall be as set forth in 4 U.S.C. §4:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and  
to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God,  
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance may be done (1) via the public address system for unified building participation; (2) in each individual classroom under the leadership/direction of the teacher; or (3) in some other manner as specified by the building principal.

It is recognized that some individuals may object to such recitation on the basis of religion or conscience. Therefore, no student shall be required to participate in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and any intimidation of any student by other students or staff aimed at coercing participation is prohibited. There shall also be, however, no tolerance for disruption/ridicule of this Pledge of Allegiance activity.

The District shall devote time on or about Veterans Day to an observance that conveys the meaning and significance of that day. The amount of time each school devotes to this observance shall be at least one hour or, if class is less than one hour, at least one standard class period.

LEGAL REFS: O.R.C. §3313.602

Adopted: October 13, 2009