

RECOGNITION OF CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

The schools shall foster and nurture in students a respect for, and an ability to relate to, all people. In order to reach this goal, students need to learn to appreciate the diversity of our historic and cultural heritage and to be aware of other cultures, values, and beliefs that are different from their own.

The school board acknowledges the importance of religion to the understanding of society, world affairs and the human experience. Opportunities to learn about cultural and religious traditions provide students with an understanding of the social and historical role that religion has played in the development of civilization.

The school board acknowledges that no religious belief or non-belief should be promoted or disparaged by the school district or its employees. Activities related to religious holidays and themes should have a secular purpose and foster respect and understanding among students.

Information concerning religions and religious beliefs is permitted when it is relevant to the curriculum and grade level. Instruction and activities should be designed to educate the student on the origins, cultural and historical significance of the religion in an unbiased and objective manner. Teachers shall not advocate a particular religion or religious belief. It is expected that teachers will be sensitive to student beliefs and traditions and will provide an environment where students of various backgrounds feel comfortable in sharing information about their religious and cultural heritage. No student shall be singled out to share or participate in such discussions solely on the basis of that student's identification with the cultural/religious heritage being addressed. A student's preference not to share or participate in such discussions should be honored and respected without penalty.

Commemorating National Holidays

The school board recognizes the value of certain ceremonies and observances in promoting patriotism and good citizenship among students. Therefore, activities in schools commemorating national holidays such as, but not limited to, Memorial Day and Veteran's Day are encouraged.

Adopted 2009 – Greenland, New Castle, Newington
Reviewed 2016

