

CURRICULUM

MOVIES AND “R” RATED MOVIES

In accordance with long-standing past practices: Movies utilized in the classroom are to tie to the curriculum, unless the movie being shown is for recreational purposes. “Recreational purposes” are those that students have earned as a privilege for some accomplishment(s) i.e. taking students to a movie theater.

Due to copyright laws, showing video cassettes and dvd’s for entertainment or reward purposes in schools is prohibited. Showings of this sort are considered public performances and require appropriate performance rights or license. According to copyright legislation, a video cassette or dvd may only be shown in the classroom if it specifically relates to the curriculum taught in that specific classroom.

Movie Ratings:

“R” rated movies shown as part of the instructional program must tie directly to the curriculum and, prior to any student being allowed to watch an “R” rated movie, parental permission must be obtained. Parents must be given specific notice in writing that “R” rated movie will be shown in a specific classroom on a specific date and the purpose for showing the movie must also be stated. Parents must be informed that they have the right to opt out (in writing) for their students.

ONLINE LEARNING

Freshmen, sophomore and junior students enrolled full-time in MCPS high schools may also enroll in the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) for one course during each semester of the regular academic year. Seniors enrolled at MCPS high schools may enroll in the Montana Digital Academy for up to two courses during each semester of their senior year. Students may enroll in summer MTDA courses upon the approval of their school Distance Learning Advisory Committee.

Students interested in enrolling in the Montana Digital Academy must complete the MTDA enrollment form and return it to the building administrator/designee for approval by the school Distance Learning Advisory Committee. Exceptions to the above credit restrictions must be approved in advance by the superintendent/designee. ***(See form in Appendix, page 8)***

Home school or private school students enrolling at an MCPS high school for the expressed purpose of accessing the Montana Digital Academy will not be restricted with regard to the number of MTDA courses accessed per year. Students enrolled in on-line or electronically-delivered credit recovery courses will not be restricted with regard to the number of credit recovery courses accessed per year; however, a credit recovery plan must be developed

and approved by the school principal/designee prior to enrollment in credit recovery courses.

RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS

In accordance with Board Policy 2460:

The District’s curriculum may include the study of religions as ancillary to studies of human history and development and of various national, cultural, and ethnic groups. The study of religions shall give neither preferential nor derogatory treatment to any single religious belief or to religion in general. The study of religions shall be treated as an academic subject with no emphasis on the advancement or practice of religion.

Student Prayer and Discussion:

Students may pray individually or in groups and discuss their religious views with other students, as long as they are not disruptive or coercive. The right to engage in voluntary prayer does not include the right to have a captive audience listen, to harass other students, or to force them to participate. Students may pray quietly in the classroom, except when they are expected to be involved in classroom instruction or activities.

Assemblies, Extracurricular and Athletic Events:

District officials may not invite or permit members of the clergy, staff members, or outsiders to give prayers at school-sponsored assemblies and extracurricular or athletic events. District officials may not organize or agree to student requests for pray at assemblies and other school-sponsored events. Furthermore, prayer may not be broadcast over the school public address system, even if the pray is nonsectarian, non-proselytizing, and initiated by students.

Student Religious Expression and Assignments:

Students may express their individual religious beliefs in reports, tests, homework, and projects. Staff members should judge their work ordinary academic standards, including substance, relevance, appearance, composition, and grammar. Student religious expression should neither be favored nor penalized. Staff members may teach objectively about religious holidays and about the religious symbols, music, art, literature, and drama that accompany the holidays. They may celebrate the historical aspect of the holidays, but may not observe them as religious events.

School Programs and Performances:

School programs, performances, and celebrations must serve an educational purpose. The inclusion of religious music, symbols, art, or writings is permitted if the religious content has an historical and/or independent educational purpose which contributes to the objectives of the approved curriculum. School programs, performances, and celebrations cannot promote, encourage, discourage, persuade, dissuade, or incriminate against a religion or religious activity and cannot be religious or religious-holiday oriented.