

recognize such holidays with religious observances in the classroom or in any mandated teaching situation. Inclusion of sacred writings, music, and arts in the educational program shall be based on their having independent educational merits.

The historical and contemporary values and the origin of religious holidays may be explained in an unbiased and objective manner without sectarian indoctrination.

Music, art, literature, and drama having a religious theme or basis shall be permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs, if presented in a prudent and objective manner and as a traditional part of the cultural and religious heritage of the particular holiday.

The use of religious symbols such as a cross, menorah, crescent, Star of David, crèche, symbols of native American religions and other symbols that are part of a religious holiday shall be permitted as a teaching aid or resource, provided such symbols are displayed as an example of the cultural and religious heritage of the holiday and are temporary in nature. Among these holidays shall be included Christmas, Easter, Passover, Hanukah, Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, St. Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Halloween.

Religion In The Curriculum

Religious institutions and orientations are central to human experience, past and present. An education excluding such a significant aspect would be incomplete. It is essential that the teaching about and not of, religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner. Therefore, the practice of the district shall be as follows:

1. The district shall support the inclusion of religious literature, music, drama, and the arts in the curriculum and in school activities, provided it is intrinsic to the learning experience in the various approved fields of study and is presented objectively.
2. The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature, and history should only be as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of the areas. Such studies should never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs.