

Policy 609

Religion



HEARTLAND LAKES COMMUNITY
SCHOOL EXISTS TO EMPOWER
SCHOLARS TO:
BRAVELY LIVE THEIR TRUTH,
TO BECOME WISE STEWARDS OF
THE LAND AND RESOURCES
AND TO IGNITE LASTING
CURIOSITY THAT LEADS TO
POSITIVE CHANGE IN THEIR
SCHOOL, THEIR COMMUNITIES,
AND THEMSELVES.

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| Adoption: | September 11, 2023 |
| Revision History | |
| Last Board Review: September 11, 2023 | |
| Next Board Review: September 2025; 2028 | |
| Review Frequency: Every 3 Years (per Policy 208) | |

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to identify the status of religion as it pertains to the programs of Heartland Lakes Community School.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A.** Heartland Lakes Community School (HLCS) shall neither promote nor disparage any religious belief or nonbelief. Instead, HLCS encourages all students and employees to have appreciation for and tolerance of each other’s views.
- B.** HLCS also recognizes that religion has had and is having a significant role in the social, cultural, political, and historical development of civilization.
- C.** HLCS recognizes that one of its educational objectives is to increase its students’ knowledge and appreciation of music, art, drama, and literature which may have had a religious basis or origin as well as a secular importance.
- D.** HLCS supports the inclusion of religious music, art, drama, and literature in the curriculum and in school activities provided it is intrinsic to the learning experience and is presented in an objective manner without sectarian indoctrination.
- E.** The historical and contemporary values and the origin of various religions, holidays, customs, and beliefs may be explained in an unbiased and nonsectarian manner.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

- A.** It shall be the responsibility of the Director to ensure that the study of religious materials, customs, beliefs, and holidays at HLCS is in keeping with the following guidelines:
- 1.** The proposed activity must have a secular purpose.
 - 2.** The primary objective of the activity must be one that neither advances nor inhibits religion.
 - 3.** The activity must not foster excessive governmental relationships with religion.
 - 4.** Notwithstanding the foregoing guidelines, reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate any student who wishes to be excused from attendance at school for the purpose of religious instruction or observance of religious holidays.
- B.** The Director is granted authority to develop and present for school board review and approval directives and guidelines for the purpose of providing further guidance relative to the teaching of materials related to religion. Approved directives and guidelines shall be attached as an addendum to this policy.

Note: The applicability and enforceability of this policy 609 is limited to, and qualified by, Minnesota or Federal law that, at the time any such circumstance within the scope of the policy arise, may be contrary to some aspect or all of the policy.