

## **Instruction**

### **Opening Exercises, Observances, Ceremonies, Programs**

Each homeroom and elementary class shall conduct opening exercises each school day including the salute to the flag, reading of announcements and notices, and a moment of silent meditation for those students and teachers who wish to avail themselves of such time for such purpose.

In observance of legal, State, and National holidays, recognition may be made, as deemed appropriate, to the historical and cultural value of such holidays.

Ceremonial events shall be conducted as appropriate to the occasion, with sensitivity and respect toward students whose cultural backgrounds may differ from that of the event being observed.

School programs are valuable components of the total education program. As such teachers shall be free to incorporate music, literature, drama, poetry, art, and dance, with origins in any faith, into their lesson plans. The artistic merit and/or performance suitability of the available material and the interests and capabilities of the teachers and students producing the program will be taken into account. Similar academic criteria shall apply to any aspect of the curriculum.

Students and teachers shall have the right to refuse, for reasons of conscience, to participate in or attend any activity or program, which includes material that which they may deem contrary to personal beliefs. Staff members who choose to not participate must inform the building administrator of their decision at least 48 hours in advance.

Legal Reference:            Connecticut General Statutes  
   10-16a Silent Meditation.

New Policy adopted:  
/2002