

Procedures Religious Observances

Schools in the Burlington School District are public institutions and by law may not promote the practice of any religion, nor may they advance the practices of one religion over another. At the same time, students may not be discriminated against on the basis of their religion, and schools must make reasonable accommodations for students to be able to exercise their religious rights. Out of respect for the various religions that our students observe, the Burlington School District follows the guidelines below to accommodate students:

- **Before and After School Meetings:** Students may meet before and after school hours in school spaces to be designated by administrators for after-school and club activities.
- **Religious Observances/prayer at school before, between or after instructional time:** Students may individually and quietly pray before or after the school day, between classes, and during lunches on their own as long as they do not disrupt other students or interfere with the orderly operation of the school program. They may not pressure other students to participate.
- **Religious Observances/prayer at school during instructional time:** Students whose religion requires prayer or other observance at times when the student has a scheduled class must provide a parent's written request for accommodation to the Principal or designee. Such requests must include the date and time of day for each release and be made in advance to allow the school to make appropriate arrangements, where reasonable.

School personnel shall make a good faith effort to accommodate such requests, while giving consideration to the law, the responsibility and policies of the Department of Education, and the educational program of the school and of the individual student. Parents also have a duty to cooperate in reaching an accommodation. Students who are accommodated in this way have a right to make up class work and assignments. Students are responsible to talk to teachers in advance to arrange make-up work.

Students who are granted an accommodation are expected to go directly from class to where the prayer is to take place and return immediately to class. Schools may, at their discretion, provide supervision of students to, during and from prayer but such supervision is solely for the purpose of maintaining order and or preventing disruption but will in no way involve any participation in, or endorsement of, any religion.

- **Religious observance outside the school building and grounds:** Students will be granted time off for religious observance outside the school building and grounds where educationally feasible. Students will be permitted to make up school work in a manner that will not interfere with their religious observance,