Adopted: June 24, 2014
Modified: December 9, 2021
Board Approved: December 15, 2021

609 RELIGION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to identify the status of religion as it pertains to the programs of Woodbury Leadership Academy.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Woodbury Leadership Academy shall neither promote nor disparage any religious belief or nonbelief. Instead, Woodbury Leadership Academy encourages all students and employees to have appreciation for and tolerance of each other's views.

B. Woodbury Leadership Academy also recognizes that religion has had and is having a significant role in the social, cultural, political, and historical development of civilization.

C. Woodbury Leadership Academy 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. Woodbury Leadership Academy 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. The administration shall be responsible for ensuring that the study of religious materials, customs, beliefs, and holidays in Woodbury Leadership Academy 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 administration 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.