

Assemblies and Ceremonies**School Ceremonies, Activities, and Performances**

Community High School District 99, North High School and South High School, conduct a variety of school ceremonies and activities and participate in a number of holiday observances. School holiday observances and ceremonies frequently relate to matters of culture and religion, and District 99 encourages all students, faculty and staff to appreciate, value, and develop respect for the variety of cultural and religious heritages represented in District 99.

Observance of Legal and Religious Holidays

District 99 observes the several legal school holidays throughout the year which have a religious and a secular basis and are enumerated in Section 24-2 of The School Code of Illinois.

District 99's calendar of activities is prepared in a manner which minimizes conflicts with religious holidays celebrated by members of the school community.

Activities in the high schools in conjunction with religious holidays should conform to the requirements of District Policy 6.70-Teaching About Religions. The totality of holiday-related observances should reflect balance among a variety of cultures.

No student or staff member should be compelled to recognize or observe any holiday in ways contrary to personal religious beliefs.

Decorations and Displays

Decorations and displays which recognize legal and secular holidays should reflect balance and sensitivity to the variety of cultural traditions which exist in the school community. To ensure that the campuses operate in a consistent manner in displaying decorations, the Principals shall confer and consult with the Superintendent prior to displaying seasonal decorations which will be reviewed on a district-wide basis. The Principals should address any questions relative to the appropriateness of decorations or displays to the Superintendent well in advance of holiday observances.

School Performances

The purpose of school-sponsored performances must be secular and may not serve to advance or inhibit any religion.

Student performances, including instrumental and vocal concerts, may be dedicated exclusively to public and secular holidays; however, student performances may not be dedicated exclusively

to religious holidays. Components may be associated with religious holidays, provided the overall program demonstrates sensitivity to the various beliefs the school community.

Consistent with Policy 6.70-Teaching About Religions, music, art, literature, and drama having religious themes or bases are permitted as part of the curriculum or in-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 a particular holiday.

The Principals should address any questions relative to the appropriateness of the content of student performances to the Superintendent prior to the beginning of student rehearsals for the performance.