



YOUNG SCHOLARS
CHARTER SCHOOL

Current Events and Controversial Issues

Purpose

The Board of Trustees believes that the consideration of current events and controversial issues has a legitimate place in the School's instructional program in order to help students develop decision-making skills necessary for citizenship in our democracy.

Properly introduced and conducted, the consideration of such events and issues can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating points of view.

Guidelines

The Board of Trustees permits the introduction and proper educational use of current events and controversial issues provided that their use in the instructional program (1) is related to the instructional goals of the course of study and level of maturity of the students; (2) does not indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view; (3) encourages fair presentation and open-mindedness; (4) is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry and in an unprejudiced and dispassionate manner; and (5) is conducted in a way that is not disruptive to the educational process.

The presentation and discussion of current events and controversial issues must be on an informative basis, with minimal emphasis on opinions.

Employees shall exercise care not to reveal their personal opinions on religious or political questions in the course of discussing a current event or controversial issue in order to promote a partisan point.

Employees shall keep in mind that their role is not to teach the current event or controversial issue or provide their own opinion on it, but rather, to facilitate the study of such event by students in a properly supervised environment. Employees are not prohibited from objectively expressing a personal point of view on a given topic, if doing so is consistent with all other requirements outlined in this Policy, but they shall not under any circumstances use their position or the school setting for promoting or furthering their own personal views and interests. Emotional criticism and/or the promotion of a cause within the classroom are inappropriate for the classroom setting and are not permitted.

During a discussion of current events and controversial issues, it is appropriate for students to have the opportunity to (1) find, collect, and assemble factual material on the subject; (2) interpret the data without bias or prejudice; (3) reconsider assumptions and claims; and (4) reach their own conclusions.

During the study and discussion of current events and controversial issues, the presentation of varied points of view shall be as broad as possible.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to maintain a classroom atmosphere of mutual respect for various points of view.

Questions or concerns regarding this Policy, or any alleged violations, should be directed to the CEO.

Requests for outside individuals or organizations to discuss current events or controversial issues with students at school, at school events or during school assemblies that are not part of the approved curriculum must be approved in advance by the CEO.

Approved 3.9.2021