

Series 5000 – Instructional Programs

Section 5300 – Student Activities

Policy 5304 – Memorial Guidelines

- 5304.1 Harrison County schools will provide a uniform method of dealing appropriately with the aftermath of a tragedy involving the death of a student, faculty or staff member. A balance needs to be maintained between supporting the grieving process and not glamorizing or sensationalizing the death. At risk students may be placed in jeopardy by over-zealous attempts to memorialize the death. Maintaining this balance is a particularly delicate issue as the school decides on appropriate commemorative activities. The following guidelines shall apply.
- 5304.2 The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and all memorials donated or purchased in memory of a student, faculty or staff member.
- 5304.3 Acceptable memorials/activities might include:
- 5304.3.1 scholarships established in the name of the student, faculty or staff member.
 - 5304.3.2 books or other instructional materials. If a donor acknowledgement, plaque or card is requested it should read “given by the John Doe family” not given in memory of our beloved son/daughter, etc.”
 - 5304.3.3 collection of money to be donated to the deceased’s family or charity of their choice.
- 5304.4 Unacceptable memorials/activities are:
- 5304.4.1 funerals on school property.
 - 5304.4.2 memorial service that may alter the routine of a regular school instructional day.
 - 5304.4.3 memorials that require the altering of school property.
 - 5304.4.4 memorials that require the altering of school activities or the activities schedule.
 - 5304.4.5 memorials that infringe on the separation of church and state.
 - 5304.4.6 memorials that require the use of public funds to purchase, develop, or maintain.
- 5304.5 These guidelines are to be communicated to staff, local funeral home administrators, the ministerial association, and the media when necessary.