

PATRIOTIC EXERCISES

Background

The development of pride in our country and respect for the national symbols adopted by our government is an objective in Grande Yellowhead Public School Division's schools. The pride is to stem from the values and qualities we hold as Canadian citizens and as a Nation and from the place we hold as a respected nation in the international community.

Procedures

1. Participation in and exposure to patriotic exercises is important in the development of positive attitudes and love of our country as well as contributing to the development of good citizenship. A form of patriotic exercise may be included as part of opening exercises in the classroom.
 - 1.1 Opening exercises at the school or classroom level may consist of, but are not limited to, any or all of the following:
 - 1.1.1 Saluting the Canadian Flag;
 - 1.1.2 Singing O Canada;
 - 1.1.3 A short discussion period or a thought for the day, which may be selected by teachers and students from a variety of sources.
 - 1.2 The total time for opening exercises should not exceed ten (10) minutes.
 - 1.3 Schools, which implement discretionary opening exercises at either the school or the classroom level, will include in their school handbook a statement advising the parents of the practice, the general format of the exercises, and the process of opting out of the opening exercises.
2. The flying of the National and Provincial Flags and the singing of our National Anthem are required activities in our schools.
 - 2.1 In compliance with the Education Act (Section 61), schools will display the Canadian Flag and the Alberta Flag in the school.
 - 2.2 Schools will fly the Canadian Flag and the Provincial Flag on school flagpoles.
 - 2.3 Schools will ensure that the flags flown on flagpoles are in good condition.
 - 2.4 Schools will determine the occasions on which the National Anthem will be sung.
 - 2.5 The Superintendent may direct schools to lower flags. Requests to have flags lowered at individual schools are to be made to the Superintendent.
3. Opportunities will be found in the appropriate curriculum areas to develop, in our students, knowledge of and a sense of pride in our country and in patriotic activities.

Reference: Section 16,18,32,33,52,53,58.1,196,197,222 Education Act

Approved: November 2005

Amended: March 21, 2018; July 1, 2018; April 27, 2020