

Capital High School

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America Philosophy and Goals Organization and Administration

PURPOSE

To provide direction for the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of The United States of America here at Capital High School.

STATEMENT OF SCHOOL POLICY

The American flag is a symbol of our national ideals. Traditionally, the flag is honored by standing and pledging allegiance to it. It shall be the policy of Capital High School that a time be set aside at the beginning of every instructional day for students and others who wish to do so to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROVISIONS

In accordance with state law, instruction in the history and principles represented by the flag of the United States, as well as the flag of West Virginia, are included in the curriculum of one or more grades in the school system as preparation for students to become participatory citizens and as a means of transmitting fundamental values important to maintaining a democratic system of government.

As part of this instruction, all students should learn the origin and the text of the Pledge of Allegiance, which serves as one expression of this nation's civic heritage.

RECITATION PROVISIONS

As prescribed by law, the Pledge of Allegiance shall be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. Either the classroom teacher or a student may lead the recitation of the Pledge. If a classroom teacher chooses **not to participate**, another staff member or student, on a voluntary basis, may be designated to serve as leader.

No student shall be compelled to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance if he or she objects, or if his or her parents object, to participation in such an exercise on religious or philosophical grounds. Parents or guardians are expected to discuss any such objections with their children just as it would be expected that they would discuss any other aspect of behavior and conduct in school with their student (s). Parental consent is neither required nor solicited in either instance.

Non-Participating Students & Disciplinary Action

No student shall be subjected to unfavorable comment (s) or stigmatization as a result of his or her decision to participate in or not participate in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

During the Pledge, nonparticipating students are expected to stand or sit quietly/silently if they want, and to engage in no disrupting or distracting activity.

No disciplinary sanction may be imposed for refusal to participate in saying the Pledge; however, willful disruption or interference with the exercise of pledging allegiance by others shall result in the same disciplinary measures accorded to other instances of classroom disruption in school.