Opening Exercises

Belief

The Division encourages opening exercises in schools to promote a welcoming start to the day that is safe, caring and respectful of the community context.

Guidelines

1. The principal determines which practices are included in a school’s opening exercises.

2. The singing or playing of ‘O Canada’ may be used to start the school day or at special occasions.

3. Other opening exercises shall be discussed with the School Council or Parent Advisory Committee and be reflective of community values.

4. Opening exercises shall be practiced school-wide.

5. Parents/guardians may exempt their child/children from participating in opening exercises on the basis of religious or patriotic grounds.

Procedures

6. The principal shall be responsible for reviewing information considered reflective of community values.

7. At the beginning of each school year, the principal shall ensure the school’s opening exercise practices are communicated to families.

8. The parent/guardian shall provide the principal with written notification to exempt their child/children from opening exercises.

9. Adequate supervision shall be provided for students who are not participating in opening exercises. Provisions will be made for a student to:
   9.1 Leave the room, or
   9.2 Remain in the room without taking part.

10. An exemption from opening exercises remains in place until rescinded by the parent/guardian by notifying the principal in writing.

Reference: School Act - Section 22, 50