

MEDICINE HAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION AND EXERCISES

POLICY

Students shall have regular opportunity to receive patriotic instruction and to engage in patriotic exercises.

Such instruction and exercises shall include, but shall not be limited to, the activities listed in the Regulations associated with this Policy. Teachers are encouraged to use every appropriate opportunity to instill within students a sense of pride in and devotion toward their country and, whenever possible, to develop innovative means of involving students in patriotic activities.

GUIDELINES

1. In accordance with the requirements of the School Act, the principal of each school shall ensure that the national flag of Canada and the provincial flag of Alberta are prominently displayed at the school. Students shall also be taught the meaning and significance of the respective flags.
2. The following Salute to the Flag may be included as a part of a school's patriotic exercises:
I salute the flag, the emblem of my country. To her I pledge my love and loyalty.
3. Students shall be taught the words and music of the national anthem, O Canada, and shall be taught that respect for the national anthem is an important responsibility of Canadian citizenship. O Canada shall be sung and/or played on a regular and frequent basis in all District schools.
4. Students may be taught the words and music of God Save the Queen.
5. In accordance with the requirements of the Remembrance Day Act, each school shall conduct an annual ceremony of remembrance, to be held on the school day immediately preceding Remembrance Day or on another day approved by the Superintendent.
6. In accordance with the provisions of the School Act, upon request from a parent, a student shall be excused from participation in patriotic instruction and/or exercises.

**Approved & Adopted:
December 17, 2013**

REFERENCE:

School Act, s. 26 (Flags)
School Act, s. 50 (Religious and patriotic instruction)
Remembrance Day Act