

## Raymond School District Policy - IND

### SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

In view of the decision of the Supreme Court declaring the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and Bible reading in the public schools as unconstitutional, the Raymond School Board in its desire to set an example of strict adherence to the Law of the Land, whether or not this be in accordance with individual feelings of its members, adopts the policy of prohibiting said recitation of the Lord's Prayer, Bible reading, or any exercise that can be construed as devotional in nature as a part of the program of a daily scheduled school day session.

The Board, however, encourages appropriate substitute exercises such as inspirational or thought-provoking poems, songs, stories, historical anecdotes, biographical sketches, etc., insofar as these are not of a religious nature.

The United States Supreme Court in 1992, in the case of Lee versus Weisman, held that including clergy who offer prayers as part of an official public school graduation ceremony is forbidden by the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. As such, to be in compliance with this decision, the Raymond School Board adopts the policy of prohibiting baccalaureate services and school-sponsored prayer at all events sponsored by the Raymond School system.

Adopted: August 17, 1963

R/R: 6/3/93

Revised: August 1, 2002