Book	Policy Manual
Section	7000 Property
Title	Copy of MEMORIALS
Code	po7250.01
Status	
Adopted	March 13, 2025

7250.01 - **MEMORIALS**

The Board of Education recognizes that an untimely death has a profound impact on staff and students and the entire community. It is important during this difficult time that school personnel can rely on a well thought out, agreed upon plan to assist in supporting our students and families and to also make wise decisions towards healing, so that the important task of learning can occur.

Memorials have the potential to glamorize death in the minds of individuals who have been diagnosed with depression or other psychological disabilities. Memorials can be an ongoing visual reminder of the event, triggering individuals towards a traumatic or grief response. A memorial on school grounds forces all students to interact with the memorial and to remember. For some students, this remembering will be a roadblock to learning.

Acceptable Memorials:

A. Temporary memorials will be allowed in a quiet room or space that students must choose to attend. Art supplies will be available for students to make cards or a "Thinking of You" banner in a quiet space. Any temporary memorial found in the school building will be respectfully placed in the "quiet room". The cards or banner will be put away after the second day after the incident and be given to the family.

B. Donations can be made "In Honor" of an individual for scholarships or donation to school equipment.

C. The District reserves the right to continue to add items to its memorial guidelines.

Pre-existing Memorials:

Pre-existing memorials on District property will not be removed until the memorial is in the way of facility improvement or when the memorial needs resources for maintenance.

Unacceptable Memorials:

A. Funerals/Memorial services on school property

B. Memorials that require the altering of school property and landscape

C. Memorials that require the use of public funds to purchase, develop, or maintain

D. ~~Memorials attached to any object on school property~~

E. Memorials that ~~draw attention or~~ have the potential to glamorize death

F. Memorials that consist of a monument on school property

G. Memorial articles in~~ the student newspaper~~ district generated publications

H. Memorials in the yearbook - any student/staff member who starts the school year, may have their photo in the yearbook with their class/department

   If requested, parents of a student who has died may be provided a dedication space, the same size as other students. These dedication spaces are to honor a student, ~~not memorialize them,~~ as reflected in the language of the dedication.

I. Clothing developed as a memorial

J. ~~In accordance with the School District's philosophy that graduation and other senior ceremonial events are a celebration for the community, graduation programs and senior activities will make no specific mention of non-present individuals, but will mention a remembrance of~~

~~"all individuals who can no longer be with us"~~

K. The District reserves the right to continue to add items to its memorial guidelines

Mason Public Schools works to support our school community during crisis events such as student and staff deaths. The Mason Public Schools community has been trained in intervention protocol to support individuals and the school community in coping with traumatic events such as deaths. Mason Public Schools takes seriously the effects of crisis and traumatic events upon our learning community. We are committed to a research based protocol so that people are supported well. This purposeful intervention enables our community to begin healing so that they can move forward in learning.

It is our goal to work with sensitivity and skill to allow Mason Public Schools students and staff to return to the important task of learning within the normal educational routine. We encourage families and individuals in the school community to engage in public grieving at venues such as places of worship, funeral homes, community centers, neighborhood gatherings, and other public venues. We believe that the school setting is more appropriate for private grieving, and semi-private grieving with trained personnel as we enable students to return to learning and academic growth.