

## CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

### Patriotic Exercises

Principals and teachers shall teach students to honor and care for the American flag to the end that it may be treated with respect and handled with reverence at all times. The American flag will be displayed in classrooms and meeting rooms in accordance with the Federal Flag Code.

Every elementary and secondary school shall conduct appropriate patriotic exercises each day during the school year at the beginning of the first regularly scheduled class, or activity period at which the majority of the students of the school begin the day, conduct appropriate patriotic exercises. These exercises shall include, at the least, a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Other patriotic observances such as songs, quotations, and raising of the flag are encouraged but will be carried out at the discretion of school personnel.

The District respects the legal right of individuals not to participate in the salute to the flag for personal reasons.

*(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*

*(cf. 6141.6 - Multicultural Education)*

### Commemorative Exercises

District schools shall hold exercises to commemorate the following special days:

U.S. Constitution Day	On or near September 17
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	The Friday before the day schools are closed for this holiday
Lincoln's Birthday	The school day before the day schools are closed for this holiday
Susan B. Anthony Day	February
George Washington's Birthday	The Friday preceding the third Monday in February
Black American Day	March
Conservation, Bird and Arbor Day	March
Classified Employee Week	Third week in May
Day of the Teacher	Second Wednesday in May
John Muir Day	April
Hispanic Heritage Month	September - October

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES** (continued)**Holidays**

District schools shall be closed in observance of the following holidays:

New Year's Day	January 1
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Third Monday in January or the Monday or Friday of the week in which January 15 occurs
Presidents' Day	The Monday & Friday of the week in which February 12 occurs
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	That Thursday in November designated by the President
Christmas Day	December 25

*(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)*

Holidays which fall on a Sunday shall be observed the following Monday. Holidays which fall on a Saturday shall be observed the preceding Friday. If any of the above holidays occurs under federal law on a date different from that indicated above, the Board may close the schools on the date recognized by federal law instead of on the date above. (Education Code 37220)

*(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)*

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

37220-37223 Saturdays and holidays

45203 Paid holidays

45460 Classified employee week

52720 Daily performance of patriotic exercises in public schools

West Virginia State Board of Education et al v. Barnette et al, 319 U.S. 624 (1943)Banks v. Board of Public Instruction, 314 F. Supp. 285 (1970)Hanover v. Northrup, 325 F. Supp. 170 (1970)

Policy

Adopted: February 8, 1999

**CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

San Juan Capistrano, California