

Instruction

Repertoire Selection Policy

The selection of music repertoire is crucial to the delivery of instruction related to the performing arts curriculum. To help facilitate appropriate selection of repertoire by our staff, the Administration has developed a repertoire selection procedure for District 204. This policy is intended to provide broad parameters for the staff to include all types of music experiences in a child's education.

Members of the District community (students, staff, parents and administration) have provided a wealth of information related to the subject of appropriate repertoire selection. Input from the community, results of legal cases involving religious music in the public schools, information from the Music Educators National Conference and existing board policies of District 204 have provided the underpinning of this Repertoire Selection Policy.

The District has an obligation to be sensitive to the many different religious and cultural contexts of our diverse community. Public schools may not advance or inhibit religion, as the First Amendment requires government neutrality with respect to religion. However, religious materials and music may be used in the public schools if the materials and music are presented objectively as part of a secular program of education.

The Board, Administration and staff respect all people and endeavor to be aware of the cultural and religious sensitivities that are related to the delivery of instruction and to the core curriculum. However, this awareness must not interfere with our obligation to teach about significant works of art. The following is extracted from the American Choral Directors Association policy set forth in the December, 1993, Choral Journal.

"Any work of art studied or performed should be selected for its inherent beauty of structure and form. Its purpose in study should be learning for the sake of developing artistic understanding and responsiveness. Often artwork is related to a specific religious/cultural tradition. The study of such works of art can enhance one's understanding and appreciation of a cultural product which a particular tradition has fostered."

The Board believes that music should not be selected for study and performance in the District 204 schools for the purpose of advancing or perpetuating a particular religious belief system. Rather, music should be selected first, on its own merits as an art form, and second, as a development of a particular movement in human civilization.

In order to best serve the students and parents of District 204, this policy addresses a process that teachers must follow to ensure that the curriculum drives their decisions regarding the selection of repertoire.

ADOPTED: April 13, 2015