

Corvallis School District

STUDENTS

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Participation in Commencement Exercises

Statement of Policy

A student's participation in the commencement exercises of the graduating class at Corvallis High School is an earned privilege. As such, participation in this ceremony is reserved for those members of the graduating class who have completed all of the state and local requirements for graduation before the date of the ceremony. Students who complete their requirements after the date of commencement exercises will receive their diploma at that time.

Organization and Content of Commencement Exercises

The school administration may invite graduating students to participate in high school graduation exercises according to academic class standing or class officer status. Any student who is requested to participate may choose to decline the invitation.

The school administration shall not censor any presentation or require any content, but may advise the participants about appropriate language for the audience and occasion.

The printed program for the commencement exercises shall include the following paragraph:

Any presentation by a participant in graduation exercises is the private expression of the individual participant and does not necessarily reflect any official position of the District, its Board, administration, or employees, or indicate the views of any other graduates.

Baccalaureate Ceremonies

Students and their families may organize baccalaureate services, at which attendance must be entirely voluntary. Organizers of baccalaureate services may rent and have access to school facilities on the same basis as other private groups but may not receive preferential treatment.

The District may not be identified as sponsoring or endorsing baccalaureate services. District funds, including paid staff time, may not be used directly or indirectly to support or subsidize any religious services.

Legal Reference: Art XI, Sec. 5, Montana Constitution – Freedom of religion
Art X, Sec 2 Montana Constitution – Nondiscrimination in education
20-1-308, MCA Religious Instruction released time program
20-7-112, MCA Sectarian publications prohibited and prayer permitted

Cross Reference: 2333 Student Religious Activity at School

Policy History:

Adopted on: 3-9-99

Effective Date: 3-9-99

Revised on: 8-10-04