



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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3310. ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The curriculum adopted by the Board of Education is designed to address the educational goals established for this school district and to meet the needs of pupils. The course guides prepared for each course of study describe the material to be covered in each course and, in general, the approach to be employed by the teaching staff member responsible for the course.

The Board recognizes that some deviation from the course guide is necessary to the free exchange of ideas within the classroom. Exposure to a wide range of ideas encourages the spirit of inquiry that is essential to the learning process; the thorough examination of those ideas aids pupils in developing powers of reasoning and in acquiring habits of academic discipline.

The Board believes in the fundamental American right of freedom of speech. Teaching staff must encourage fair presentation and open-mindedness and the free exchange of ideas in a spirit of scholarly inquiry, drawing upon information and insights from the widest feasible range of resources. Classroom discussions, including those covering topics not specified in the curriculum, will be conducted in an unprejudiced and unbiased manner and classroom discussion or presentations on any topics should include a review of diverse points of view. In the discussion of any topic, a teaching staff member may express a personal opinion, provided the expression is characterized as personal opinion and does not attempt to persuade pupils to the teaching staff member's point of view.

The Board will not condone classroom discussion that is unrelated to the educational goals of this district or to the subject of the course of study, disrupts the educational process, does not match the maturity level of the pupils, neglects to inform pupils of various responsible points of view on the subject under discussion, or fails to take into account the sensibilities of the community.

Adopted: July 21, 2011

Revised: November 19, 2020