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1. PURPOSE

- a. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that New Millennium Academy remains neutral with respect to the religious beliefs of students, parents, teachers, and other employees.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- a. NEW MILLENNIUM ACADEMY (NMA) will not promote or criticize any religious belief or nonbelief. NMA encourages all students and employees to respect each other's individual religious beliefs.
- b. There are historical and contemporary benefits in explaining the origin of various religious holidays, customs, and beliefs. NMA will explain these matters in an unbiased manner that does not support or criticize a particular religious view.

3. POLICY TERMS

- a. Teaching:
 - i. NMA is responsible for ensuring that any study of religious subjects or materials:
 1. Is presented objectively;
 2. Has a secular purpose;
 3. Has a primary objective that neither advances nor inhibits religion; and
 4. Does not foster governmental relationships with religion.
- b. Student Assignments:
 - i. Students may express their personal religious beliefs in assignments if the teacher determines the work is appropriate to the subject matter. The teacher should take into account:
 1. The relevance of religious expression to the topic and assignment;
 2. The substance of the presentation and adherence to the assignment; and
 3. In the case of oral presentations, expression of religious beliefs may not subject other students to unwelcome religious persuasion, coercion, or persecution.
 4. If the teacher determines an assignment expressing religious beliefs is appropriate to the subject matter, NMA may not reject or penalize a student's work because it encompasses his or her religious beliefs. The assignment will be graded by the same standards as other students' assignments.
- c. Absence from School for Religious Observance:
 - i. NMA will make reasonable efforts to accommodate a student who asks to be excused from school for a religious observance.
- d. Release from School for Religious Instruction:

