

A memorial is intended to bring closure to a period of grieving and serves as a point from which healing may begin. Memorials should reflect the needs of the school community while being respectful of the deceased individual's family and friends. The Board of Education is mindful of the precedent that is being set with each memorial and the potential long-term implications of each memorial. The purpose of this policy is to have many decisions made, in a dispassionate environment, prior to the crisis event.

Use of School Facilities/Grounds for Memorial Services and Funerals

The primary purpose of school facilities and grounds is to support the educational and extracurricular endeavors of all students. It is the intent of the Basehor-Linwood USD 458 Board of Education to maintain all facilities and grounds for this purpose and to give first priority to these endeavors.

Furthermore, the Board of Education believes learning best takes place in an environment protected from undue emotional stress. Therefore, the regular school day will not be shortened or dismissed in order for students and staff to attend a funeral or memorial service. Students who wish to attend funerals or memorial services will be released with parental permission. In that same vein, school activities and games will continue as scheduled except when the Superintendent, in the event of a catastrophic event (such as an accident with multiple student/staff deaths), determines that such activities would be inappropriate.

It is the belief of the school district that using school grounds or facilities for memorial and/or funeral services is not in the best interest of all students. Therefore, the granting of such requests during school time is prohibited. Requests for use of school grounds or facilities for such purposes after school and on weekends will be discouraged.

Memorials

- 1) Basehor-Linwood USD 458 has an established Educational Foundation. One purpose of the Foundation is for receiving and administering monetary memorials given in memory of an alumnus, student or staff member. Scholarships and endowments in memory of a deceased student or staff member are appropriate.
- 2) A flower bouquet will be purchased by the district and on display at graduation ceremonies in a location deemed appropriate by the high school principal. The bouquet will acknowledge "In memory of all deceased classmates who were a part of this graduating class."

Inappropriate memorials include but are not limited to:

- 1) Plaques, pictures and other memorabilia.
- 2) Memorial pages dedicated to the deceased in student yearbooks, student newspaper or other student publications.
- 3) Permanent items (benches, picnic tables, playground equipment, etc.)
- 4) Trees, shrubs, or other perennials on school grounds.

Existing Memorials

Any memorial in existence at the time of the adoption of this policy, or, in the future, whether in compliance with this policy or not, may be removed five years after the death of the student/staff member and offered to the family.