

Use of Media in the Classroom

Legal responsibility for the purchase of all instructional materials is vested in the Ashland School Board. However, the responsibility for the selection of instructional and library materials has been delegated to the professional staff of the district. In order to maintain open lines of communication, it is essential that the selection and acquisition of materials reflect the thought and consideration of trained professionals and community values and needs. With input from key stakeholders, the educational staff and administration shall select educational materials to support the curriculum and informational and reading needs of its learners.

The use of the media in the classroom, including television, video, newspapers, magazines, and other media are an important teaching tool when used properly. The following policy is to be adhered to by the educational staff with any exceptions approved by the principal or his/her designee.

The use of the media will be for educational purposes. Its use should conform to the teacher's pre-planned lesson plan and be used to supplement or enhance the instruction. It should not be used to replace a lesson plan.

The district employs Internet filters to prevent student access to materials that may be deemed inappropriate. In the event that students access materials or download materials that are inappropriate for school, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with Policy #6142.1, Internet Acceptable Use. In all circumstances, the use of media in the classroom must be developmentally appropriate for the audience and have clear educational purposes.

Teachers must always be careful that the use of media will be age-appropriate. When utilizing media that is assigned a viewing rating, such as "PG" for example, the teacher should exercise caution in its appropriate use for the age of the class. Additionally, the teacher under certain extreme circumstances may consider whether a permission slip should be obtained from a student's parent/guardian when the use of the media is utilized as a part of a lesson plan, whether or not it is assigned a viewing rating.

Current Events

In cases when the teacher is covering current events, the use of the media, particularly live coverage, may not be a part of the pre-planned lesson. Permission slips are not feasible in these cases as the event may be unfolding as the students are watching, or in the same day. In these cases, the teacher must very carefully exercise his/her discretion in what is appropriate viewing for the classroom. While covering a current event it is the teacher's responsibility to put the incident(s) into the proper educational context. Such an event cannot be viewed and then not discussed, but rather should be a part of the overall lesson. It is the teacher's responsibility to follow-up on the viewing so that the students understand the event and why they were watching.

Resource Sharing

The School Media Centers and the Public Library work together to support each other through a variety of resource sharing methods and means. Resource sharing occurs with all libraries in the district. Whenever possible, resource sharing may take place with other school districts and other libraries.

Within the process of using materials from all sources, it is the responsibility of the borrower to adhere to federal copyright law. Resource sharing includes the following materials: print, audiovisual materials, telecommunications, for example, electronic databases, networks, satellite video, etc. Procedures and protocols for resource sharing will be established by the school's Librarian.

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