

Policy JHCDA: Students Speaking at Public Events

Status: DRAFT

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STUDENT MESSAGES AT ATHLETIC EVENTS

It is the intent of the Jackson County School District to provide for a brief opening message at all home high school football games and other home athletic events as designated by the Administration of the respective attendance centers. In order to implement such policy the administration of each respective attendance center shall select from one of the following options:

1. A moment of silence may be observed prior to the start of each designated home athletic event at which the public address announcer shall request those in attendance "to observe a moment of silent reflection to honor America and the many freedoms we enjoy as Americans and to show our support for our men and women serving in the armed forces and for our student athletes participating in the game tonight (today)."
2. Provide the principal of each high school attendance center with a list of dates of all designated home athletic events together with an explanation that students may volunteer to give a brief opening message at all designated events. The principal shall then provide the student body with the list of scheduled athletic events and provide a time and place for students volunteering to provide such opening message to sign up for a particular event. Once the period for signing up has expired, if more than one student signs up for scheduled event, the administration shall randomly draw from the pool of names for that date a student to provide the opening message for the given event.

Any student message to be given by a student volunteer shall be event related as determined by the student volunteer and shall be:

1. No longer than two (2) minutes in duration;
2. Wholly prepared by the student volunteer; and
3. Free of any obscene, vulgar, lewd or indecent language.

The content of the message shall not be monitored or otherwise reviewed by any school district employee or administrator, however, violation of the above message format could result in discipline under the student code of conduct and in the student forfeiting future opportunities to deliver his/her message at an event.

In the absence of a student message, a moment of silence as set forth in 1 shall be observed at each designated event.
