

## CONTROVERSIAL SPEAKERS/PROGRAMS

The Division believes it is important that students develop an understanding of ideas and of people who may seem different from them. It is also important that they develop judgment, a capacity to discern the difference between fact and opinion, and to weigh arguments, slogans, and appeals. Books, films, and other media are valuable for giving students exposure to many differing ideas. It is also appropriate to invite appropriate persons not on the educational staff to speak to or to meet with groups of students as part of the educational process.

### Approval

The appearance in school of outside speakers or programs, including those on behalf of any philanthropic, charitable, recreational, health or other worthwhile activity shall be cleared with the Principal. The Principal shall make the final decision.

### Guidelines

In an effort to uphold the students' freedom to learn while also recognizing obligations which the exercise of this freedom entails, the Division establishes the following guidelines:

- The teacher/sponsor and Principal are expected to exercise judgment and to investigate fully those proposed resource persons to whom questions may arise.
- Teachers are encouraged to use of a variety of resource persons representing various approaches or points of view on a given topic in order to afford the students a more comprehensive understanding of it.
- The ideas presented and the resource persons invited to present them shall have a demonstrable relation to the curricular or co-curricular activity in which the participating students are involved.

### Parental Notification

Prior to the invitation to an outside speaker who will present controversial material, the teacher/sponsor will inform the Principal of the subject to be discussed and the names of all guest speakers. Parents will be notified about the presentation of controversial material by an outside speaker by either the teacher or Principal in writing prior to the presentation.

— *Accomplish Anything* —

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**Outside Speakers**

The Division assumes no obligation to provide opportunities for outside speakers or interest groups in its classroom activities.

*Accomplish Anything*

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