

IMC – CONTROVERSIAL SPEAKERS AND PROGRAMS

A goal of education is to prepare our students to participate constructively in a democratic society in which many different opinions are held and differing causes are supported. It is important that students develop an understanding and appreciation for diverse ideas and people, and the ability to know the difference between fact and opinion. This may always be ascertained from the written word. It may be useful to invite appropriate guest speakers as part of the educational process.

The Board, in an effort to uphold the students' freedom to learn, while also recognizing obligations and responsibilities that the exercise of this freedom entails, establishes the following guidelines:

1. All guest speakers must be invited through the School Principal and an attempt shall be made to engage speakers for both sides of the issue(s). In no instance shall a speaker who advocates unconstitutional or illegal activities be permitted to address students. The teacher/sponsor and School Principal are expected to exercise judgment and to fully research the proposed guest speaker.
2. An appropriate record shall be made of each guest speaker and of his/her presentation.
3. The ideas presented and the guest speaker invited to present them shall be relevant to the curricular activity.
4. The guest speaker shall be informed to keep language and content age appropriate. The school sponsor or administration has the right to interrupt or suspend the speaker if the language and content is inappropriate.

Statutory/Regulatory/Policy/Handbook Cross References

Handbook (None)

APPROVED: November 3, 2011

PREVIOUS POLICY: None