ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Gore Board of Education that no sectarian or religious doctrine shall be taught or included into the curriculum or school activities unless approved as a historical document or political purpose.

The board recognizes the right of a teacher to discuss any social, economic, or political problem as well as the right of a student to explore any field or hold any belief without interference from the school or the teacher.

The board believes, however, that freedom carries with it responsibility. Academic freedom also carries with it academic responsibility that is determined by the basic ideals, goals, and institutions of the local community as they are expressed in the goals and objectives of the school district.

As a consequence of its responsibility to guarantee academic freedom to both student and teacher, the board expects that:

1. All classroom studies will be curriculum-related, factual, objective, and impartial.

2. Materials will be provided that reflect the ideas and beliefs of religious, social, political, historical, ethnic groups and their contributions to the American and world heritage and culture, thereby enabling students to develop an intellectual integrity in forming judgements.

3. Religious ideals may be used when they provide factual unbiased materials which represent all major religions. Bibles and other sacred writings are acceptable resources when used in connection with the studies of:
   A. Comparative Religions
   B. Literature and History
   C. Cultures and Languages
   D. Music, art, literature and drama, with religious themes, may be included in teaching about holidays, provided that they are presented in a neutral, prudent, and objective manner.