

DODGELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Policy Manual

323.1-Exhibit

SPECIAL OBSERVANCE DAYS

The following days shall be appropriately observed in the District as required by state law:

September 16 - Mildred Fish Harnack Day

Mildred Fish was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1902. In 1926, she married German lawyer Arid Harnack. They returned to his native Germany in 1930, where she worked as an editor and writer and he was a member of the German government. They were leaders of the resistance group "Red Orchestra." After their arrests by the Gestapo in 1942, she was sentenced to a six-year prison term, and he was executed. Adolf Hitler personally ordered her case reopened and she was beheaded on February 16, 1943. She was the only native-born American known to have been executed by the Gestapo.

September 17 - U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day

Representatives of 12 of the 13 original states signed the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787. The Constitution, with its 26 amendments, defines the federal system of government and embodies the principles on which this country was founded.

September 28 - Frances Willard Day

Frances Willard, a teacher and lecturer, grew up in Janesville, Wisconsin. She was influential in the early women's movement and was president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) from 1879 until her death in 1898. Under her leadership, the WCTU became a prestigious world organization, with a membership of two million women.

September – Wisconsin Day (Wednesday of 3rd full week in September)

In celebration of the assets that make Wisconsin a desirable place to live and work and in observance of the May 29, 1848 bill making the Wisconsin Territory the 30th state of the United States of America, the Wednesday of the third full week in September is Wisconsin Day. The day falls during Wonderful Wisconsin Week, which by gubernatorial proclamation salutes “every important activity in the state from agriculture to industry to tourism, from business to labor to recreation, and from education to good government to the state’s varied products.”

September – POW-MIA Recognition Day (Friday of the 3rd week in September)

An estimated 50,000 former Prisoners of War live among us, including those held captive during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, throughout the Cold War era, and during Operation Desert Storm. Additionally, the fate of about 10,000 Americans is unknown because they are missing in action. POW-MIA Recognition Day was established to recognize those who suffered or suffer captivity in foreign countries while in active service with the U.S. armed forces.

September – Bullying Awareness Day (Wednesday of 4th week in September)

Bullying behavior has been identified as one of the major concerns in schools throughout the United States. Bullying can negatively affect a student’s connection with school, engagement with the curriculum and overall academic performance. Bullying as a barrier to student success during school-aged years is only part of the picture. Researchers and clinicians are increasingly discovering connections between bullying and physical, social and emotional problems extending into adulthood, for the victim, the bully and even the bystanders. In Wisconsin, 22.5 % of high school students reported being bullied over the last year (2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey). The total prevalence of students affected is much higher when you include the bullies who need help to prevent the expansion of anti-social behavior and the bystanders who may feel unsafe or fearful.

October 9 - Leif Erikson Day

Leif Erikson was born in Iceland and raised in Greenland. Norse sagas written 300 years after his death describe his explorations, around 1000 A.D., of a land he called "Vinland." The location of Vinland remains unknown, but is widely believed to be on the North American continent.

October 12 - Christopher Columbus Day

Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer. In 1492, in the service of the Spanish king and queen, he sailed across the Atlantic Ocean and landed in the Bahamas. He is acclaimed for "discovering" the New World. His voyages led to widespread exploration and permanent settlement of the Americas.

November 11 - Veterans Day

This observance day began in 1919 as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day, "a day dedicated to world peace." The day honors all veterans of the U.S. armed services.

January 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King Jr. was a leader of the American civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. Before his assassination in 1968, he received the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to achieve equality for African Americans using nonviolent resistance. His efforts contributed to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

February 12 - Abraham Lincoln Day

Elected president in 1860, Abraham Lincoln was commander-in-chief during the Civil War. In 1863, he signed the Emancipation Proclamation which declared that all slaves "shall be forever free." Four months before his assassination, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which abolished slavery, was adopted.

February 15 - Susan B. Anthony Day

Susan B. Anthony, an early suffragist, organized campaigns across the United States advocating the rights of women to vote, to get an education and to own property. In 1872, she voted in a federal election and was arrested, tried and fined for her action. In 1920, 14 years after her death, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution granting women the right to vote was adopted.

February 22 - George Washington Day

George Washington is honored for his efforts to create a new nation dedicated to the rights of the people. He was commander of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. In 1789, he was inaugurated as the first president of the United States.

March 4 - Casimir Pulaski Day

Casimir Pulaski was born in Poland in 1747. He came to America in 1777, after fighting for Poland's independence, and joined forces with General Washington. After saving Washington's life, Pulaski was made brigadier general of the American Cavalry. Wounded in battle, Pulaski died on October 1, 1779.

March 17 - "The Great Hunger" in Ireland Day

Because the potato was easy to grow under a variety of conditions and a good source of food, it became the dominant crop in Ireland. By 1845, approximately one-third of Ireland's 8.1 million people ate only potatoes for their diet. An adult would consume between 11 and 14 pounds of potatoes per day; children under age 11 averaged not quite 5 pounds of potatoes per day. When a fungus ruined the potato crop in three out of four seasons between 1845 and 1849, an estimated 750,000 Irish people, weakened by hunger, died from disease and starvation and another 2 million emigrated to Britain, Canada, Australia, and the United States. "The Great Hunger," also known as the Great Famine or Irish Potato Famine, is considered by many to be the most tragic event in Irish history.

April 9 – Prisoners of War Remembrance Day

Commemorates the date during World War II when the largest number of Americans were captured in the Conquest of Bataan. The day is intended to recognize those who suffered captivity in foreign countries while in active service with the U.S. armed forces and to allow for solemn contemplation on the plight of those who have been held prisoners of war.

April 13 - American Creed Day

William Tyler Page, a messenger in the U.S. House of Representatives, wrote the American's Creed in 1917. His essay was the winning entry in a national contest for the "best summary of American political faith." The House of Representatives adopted the 100-word statement in April 1918.

April 19 – Patriot's Day

Patriots were colonists who wanted independence from British rule. Most hoped to find peaceful ways to settle their differences with England. When the British decided to look for Samuel Adams and John Hancock, who were hiding in Concord, Paul Revere and Billy Dawes rode through the night warning other Patriots in New England. The American Revolution began when the first shots were fired at Lexington on April 19, 1775. Each side said the other fired first. Patriot's Day was established to mark the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

April 22 – Environmental Awareness Day

Former Wisconsin governor and U.S. senator, Gaylord Nelson, founded Earth Day in 1970 to organize a national public demonstration that would bring attention to the environment. His efforts made environmental issues an integral part of political debate. Environmental Awareness Day marks the anniversary of Earth Day. The legislature encourages schools to conduct a day-long program, using all educational subjects, to enhance the student's understanding of the environment and to promote an ethic of environmental stewardship.

April - Arbor Day (last Friday, except as otherwise provided)

The Arbor Day movement began in the 1800s to promote conservation and beautification of the environment. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico observe Arbor Day with annual tree planting ceremonies.

June 14 - Robert LaFollette Sr. Day (This day is observed if school is in session.)

Robert M. LaFollette Sr. is widely regarded as Wisconsin's most distinguished political leader. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1885 to 1891, as Wisconsin Governor from 1900 to 1906, and in the U.S. Senate from 1906 until his death in 1925. He was one of the founders of the national Progressive Party and was that party's candidate for president in 1924. A national poll of historians and senators in 1957 named LaFollette one of five most distinguished non-living senators.

Approved (WASB): April 25, 2011