

STATEMENT OF RELIGION			
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Effective Date	July 7, 1993	Approved By	Policy Committee
Revised	May, 2003	Resp. Center	Human Resources

1 I. Policy

2 Milton Hershey School is committed to the promotion of spiritual development in all students
3 through its religious program. It is the purpose of this policy to define the basis from which our
4 religious program emanates.

5 II. Guidelines

6 A. Our 'Deed of Trust' directs us to be non-sectarian:

7 *"The School shall be non-sectarian, but the moral and religious training of the scholars*
8 *shall be properly looked after and cared for by the Managers. No favoritism shall be*
9 *shown by the Managers to any particular sect or creed."* It is our interpretation that
10 "nonsectarian", within the context of 1909 and the writing of the Deed of Trust, means to
11 be "non-denominational" within the Judeo-Christian heritage.

12 B. We believe that it is consistent with this charge for us to reaffirm our basic Judeo-
13 Christian heritage: Milton Hershey School was established, built, and continues to be
14 based upon the Judeo-Christian tradition - the tradition of the Ten Commandments and
15 The Golden Rule, the teaching of both the Old and New Testaments - and we will
16 continue to honor that tradition. Applicants to Milton Hershey School deserve to know
17 of this tradition, and it will be our responsibility to make this known.

18 C. We also believe that it is essential to demonstrate respect for others' beliefs and traditions
19 as stated in the Deed of Trust and, in keeping with our heritage, we will not permit
20 exclusion of students of other denominations, sects, or creeds. It is a right in the United
21 States to hold to a particular belief system, according to the U.S. Constitution. The same
22 is true at Milton Hershey School, as long as that belief system does not cause physical or
23 emotional harm to the student or others. Therefore, to the extent that we are reasonably
24 able, we will continue to be supportive of the religious needs of all students.

25 D. In keeping with our Judeo Christian heritage, we believe we should:

- 26 1. Help each child explore: belief in God, prayer, and his/her own spirituality as
27 part of a religious tradition.
- 28 2. Build character education into the program so students learn to value themselves
29 and, to value among other things, honesty, persistence at hard work, courage in
30 the face of difficulties, patience, reliable standards of right and wrong, habits
31 based on moral standards, respect for legitimate authority, delaying
32 gratification, and concern for others.

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3. Promote consistent school wide teaching of our core beliefs, by continuing to require all students to participate in a weekly Chapel service on campus.
 4. Enable each child to participate in the religious tradition of his or her choice to the extent possible. Choosing to follow the traditions of satanism or other traditions that could cause physical and/or emotional harm to the student or others, will not be tolerated.
 5. Prohibit individuals from using influence of position, threats, or pressure to force a change of faith in others.
 6. Teach and insist that respect be shown for the cultures and traditions of others.