

Multiculturalism

The Twin Peaks Charter Academy Board of Directors believes that the Core Knowledge Sequence provides a challenging and rigorous scholastic program which reflects the cultural traditions and contributions of the world's diverse civilizations. The Board also believes that by studying a well organized and integrated curriculum of Language Arts (including literature, sayings and phrases from many lands), World Civilization, American Civilization, Geography, Visual Arts, Music, Mathematics and Science the students will develop a broader knowledge base and respect for culturally diverse peoples, their customs and historic legacies.

Core Knowledge Sequence includes the study of the history of the world's cultures, peoples and religions. The following guidelines are given to the teacher:

Since religion is a shaping force in the story of civilization, the *Core Knowledge Sequence* introduces children in the early grades to major world religions. In introducing children to world religions, the task is to focus on those major symbols, figures, and stories that can provide the basis for critical understanding in the future. Teachers are encouraged to consider the following guidelines in teaching about the role of religion in world civilization:

- (a) The goal is to familiarize, not proselytize; to be descriptive, not prescriptive.
- (b) The tone should be one of respect and balance. No religion should be disparaged by implying that it is a thing of the past. Any one of the religions studied may be important in the life of a student or students.
- (c) To the question, "Which one is true?" an appropriate response is: "People of different faiths believe different things to be true. The best people to guide you on this right now are your parents or someone at home."

The Twin Peaks Charter Academy Board of Directors will instruct the Principal to see that the teachers follow the guidelines in the Core Knowledge Sequence when teaching about the various cultures, peoples and religions of the world.

In addition to past civilizations the Core Knowledge Sequence includes sections on modern civilizations. For example, Mexico is studied in first grade and Japan is studied in second grade. By the end of the eighth grade the students have studied the major historical events and world geography. This gives them an excellent background to understand modern people and current events of our world.