

Students

**MOUNT PLEASANT COTTAGE SCHOOL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT****SUBJECT: STUDENT INQUIRY AND EXPRESSION****Speech**

The first amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right of freedom of speech to all Americans, including students.

It is the responsibility of students to realize that this does not give them the right to interfere with the orderly conduct of classes, coerce others, or to violate the rights of those who disagree with a given point of view. Student speech may be subject to disciplinary action by school officials if such speech is slanderous; clearly and immediately causes others to damage property or physically harm others, or materially and substantially interferes with the normal operation of the school.

**Access to Communication Resources**

It is the right of students to have access to the school public address system, bulletin boards, and duplicating equipment for school purposes.

It is the responsibility of students to uphold administrative regulations as to the manner, time, and place for using school communications facilities. Reasonable time and expense limitations must be established by the Building Principal. All material offered for communication must be approved by the Principal or his/her designated representative.

**Student Publications**

It is the right of students, with the guidance of appropriate faculty advisors, to express their ideas and opinions concerning the school community and the world in which we live through school publications.

It is the responsibility of students to ensure that such publications follow good journalistic practice, especially factual reporting and high standards of literacy. Further, such publications must be free from libel (untrue statements about an individual which harms his/her reputation) or obscenity, and they shall not advocate illegal principles or actions. Students must recognize that the Principal and faculty sponsors may be held responsible for such publications and, thus, will exercise reasonable supervision in such matters.