

MAY 20 2025

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT



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Freedom From Religion Foundation

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Dear Mr. Steinberg,

Thank you for your letter dated April 25, 2025 regarding concerns about the display of religious items by a staff member at Mankato West High School. I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention, and I want to assure you that I take your concerns, and the underlying constitutional issues they raise, very seriously.

Immediately upon receiving your letter, I met with the principal of West High School to review the situation and ensure that appropriate corrective action was taken. The display in question has been removed, and I have full confidence that this matter has been resolved in a manner consistent with our obligation to maintain religious neutrality.

We are committed to fostering a school environment that is inclusive and respectful of all students and staff, regardless of their religious or nonreligious beliefs. We will continue to emphasize to our employees the importance of upholding constitutional boundaries and maintaining a clear separation between personal belief and professional responsibility while acting in their official capacity.

I appreciate the work of your organization in safeguarding the principles of the First Amendment, and I thank you again for your thoughtful communication.

Sincerely,

Paul Peterson

Superintendent

cc: Sherri Blasing, Principal, Mankato West High School