

COUNCIL ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION & BUSINESS OFFICES

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September 3, 2009

Dear Parents,

On Tuesday, September 8, 2009, the President of the United States, Barack Obama, will be addressing school children across the country. Over the past three days, a number of parents have expressed concern about this address. Some have characterized this speech as “propaganda” others have characterized this as “brainwashing”. In looking at the information disseminated by the US Department of Education and further clarification today, I do not view this address as inappropriate for our students. Nevertheless, as our kids come to school on Tuesday, we will maintain our routines in school as we would for any other day. Accordingly, I have issued these guidelines to our staff :

1. Elementary classrooms will not view the President’s Speech live during it’s broadcast time at 12:00. If parents choose to view this message, they can see rebroadcasts of the speech on the evening news and at this web link www.whitehouse.gov. Teachers may choose to show excerpts of this speech at a later time if, after review, they believe it fits into the curriculum content for their classroom.
2. In middle school and high school classrooms, teachers in the Social Studies area will have discretion to view this message with their class if it is appropriate to their curriculum content.

No matter what the politics of the administration, we have always opened our classrooms to messages from the President of the United States. We have filtered that content to ensure that these messages are appropriate for the age of the students and the content of the classroom. As we always do in Council Rock, we expect that parents who have a specific view on the issues addressed will speak with their child(ren) at home and within the context of the actual message.

If you do not want your child to view the President’s message, parents may send a note to the school office and your child(ren) will be excused from any middle school or high school class that plans to see this message live

Respectfully,

Mark J. Klein
Superintendent of Schools