

(5/29/24 District Administrator's Corner Article)

Memorial Day for students is viewed as the unofficial start of summer—students have cleaned their lockers, seniors have graduated, and our final bus trips have delivered the students home. More importantly, Memorial Day is a day to honor our military personnel...past and present.

Memorial Day was established to honor those who died in the Civil War and continues to serve as a day of remembrance for fallen American soldiers. This day provides a perfect opportunity to share an open discussion with your student about the men and women who have died while serving in the U.S. armed forces and their legacies.

The day is usually marked by parades and ceremonies and observed on the last Monday of May. In our region, families and soldiers decorate graves of their fallen peers and family members with flowers, flags and wreaths. Hence, the original title of being established as "Decoration Day." Although "Memorial Day" became its official title in the 1880s, the holiday didn't legally become Memorial Day until 1967 and later became an official federal holiday in 1971.

In December 2000, Congress passed a law requiring Americans to pause at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day to remember and honor the fallen, though this doesn't appear to be common knowledge. While celebrating (and enjoying grilled brats!) with family and friends on Memorial Day, we hope our students and families took a moment to pause and honor our patriots and consider their sacrifices. We hope you took the time to consider your freedoms and the fine folks that served to protect them. Remind your students when they stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and honor our flag that this embeds a level of patriotism.

Our flag continues to fly as a symbol of this incredible sacrifice: *"You're a grand old flag; You're a high-flying flag; And forever in peace may you wave. You're the emblem of - the land I love - the home of the free and the brave. Ev'ry heart beats true - to the red, white and blue, Where there's never a boast or brag. But should old acquaintance be forgot - Keep your eye on the grand old flag!"* - George M. Cohen

The River Valley School District honors and thanks all veterans and families connected to them. We hope your Memorial Day was filled with honor and peace and discussions of how to honor the folks that have and continue to protect our freedoms.

Mr. Loren G. Glasbrenner
District Administrator