



*From the desk of Richard N. Rickey*

*Founder/C.E.O.*

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October 2, 2018

Orenda Employees,

These are politically charged times. I'm writing to stress the importance of being politically neutral while working in our public charter school setting. I know it is tempting to share our political views, especially when asked by our students, but we need to make sure we don't say or do anything that is less than respectful and open to other points of view. We certainly don't want to mock or show disdain for political views expressed by our students, or their families, that we don't agree with.

You may have caught this story below.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/09/13/texas-biology-teacher-on-leave-for-allegedly-bullying-pro-trump-student.html>

Philosopher Ayn Rand asked a very good question when writing about the role of public education. When questioning the role of our government in education she asked; "Should the government be permitted to remove children forcible from their homes, with or without the parents' consent, and subject the children to educational training and procedures of which the parents may or may not approve?" Our student families pay taxes that support our public schools, and because of this fact they should not be forced to participate in a public school environment that is hostile to their way of thinking, or that unduly tries to sway their opinions in such matters. I believe we can all agree that in our role as public employees, working in a public school setting, we have a duty to preserve and protect the Constitution, and to safe guard the independent expressions of our students.

Let's keep it neutral. But even better, let's work together to make sure we allow the free flow of ideas, wrapped in civility.

Regards,

*Richard N. Rickey*