

Dear Parents:

The following is a statement released by the district in response to concerns over airing President Obama's Educational Address during school:

"After viewing President Obama's speech to America's School Children talking about the importance of students fulfilling their responsibilities by going to school, setting goals, and working hard, it has been determined that his speech connects to many of the district's curricular areas. After teachers have previewed the speech, they will be allowed to incorporate this video into their lesson as deemed appropriate. Parents may send a note to their child's teacher if they do not want their child to see the video. "

As a Media Literacy teacher at Mehlville High school I have reviewed the speech and decided to incorporate it as part of a lesson examining the five core concepts of media literacy. You will find a handout attached detailing the discussion questions that will be covered before and after viewing President Obama's speech and an Educational Address by George H.W. Bush from 1991.

If you wish to exclude your student from the viewing of the President's speech, please send a note stating such. I will need to receive this note by next class period.

The following alternate assignment will be given to students if they do not watch the speech:

A typed, one-page, single-spaced, size 12 font essay

This essay should explain the student's personal beliefs on student responsibilities in the areas of goal setting, planning for the future, and the importance of education. Students should use quotes and personal examples to provide details in their essays.

Sincerely,

**William Maxfield
(314) 467-6238
maxfieldw@mehlville.k12.mo.us**