



Focus on Religious Freedom

From Catholics for Freedom of Religion
www.cffor.org

"To the American People: Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. If we think on these things, there will be born in us a Savior and over us will shine a star sending its gleam of hope to the world."
~Calvin Coolidge

The Twelve Rules of Christmas – Part 1: Compiled by The Rutherford Institute Attorneys

1. Public school students' written or spoken personal expressions about Christmas (e.g. "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" t-shirts) may not be censored by school officials.
2. *Teachers are permitted to wear Christmas-related clothing or jewelry so long as they are generally permitted to wear clothing or jewelry about other holidays.*
3. Public schools may teach students about the Christmas holiday, including its religious significance, so long as it is taught objectively for secular purposes such as its historical or cultural importance.
4. *Teachers may send Christmas cards to the families of their students so long as they do so on their own time, outside of school hours.*
5. Public schools may include Christmas music, including those with religious themes, in their choral programs if the songs are included for a secular purpose such as their musical quality or cultural value or if the songs are part of an overall performance including other holiday songs.
6. *Public schools may not require students to sing Christmas songs whose messages conflict with the students' own religious or nonreligious views.*

"Mankind is a great, an immense family... This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas." ~Pope John Paul XXIII