

## First Amendment Schools

The notion that students should learn more about the Bill of Rights, and especially about the First Amendment, is hardly new. It is in this context that the First Amendment Schools (FAS) project offers such high hope for enhancing appreciation and understanding of our most basic liberties. FAS promises to recognize and support efforts of schools and teachers to expand exposure to First Amendment values, and to make materials widely available for teachers and students who wish to know more about their heritage of free expression and worship.

### **Students learning American principles by practicing them in schools**

<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/schoolkids-learning-american-principles-by-practicing-them>

*Nation-building begins at home.*

Earlier this month, a reporter for The State newspaper in Columbia, S.C., asked students from two local elementary schools why we celebrate the Fourth of July.

Kids from one school said what you would expect kids to say. Fireworks, food and lots of fun figured prominently in the answers.

But kids from the other ...

### **Let's not teach that patriotism, dissent are mutually exclusive**

<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/lets-not-teach-that-patriotism-dissent-are-mutually-exclusive>

*What does America stand for?*

That's the question on the streets of Baghdad this week as Iraqis celebrate their first taste of freedom – and look with a mixture of hope and anxiety to the “nation-building” that now begins.

And that's also the question on the home front as Americans work to heal the divisions and anger...

### **Turning classrooms into laboratories of democracy**

<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/turning-classrooms-into-laboratories-of-democracy>

*Democracy's "finishing school"*

As students walk across the stage at graduation this spring, many Americans seem to believe that they get handed the First Amendment along with their high school diploma.

Think about it: in far too many school districts, students spend 12 years in a highly undemocratic system that largely ignores student voices, stifles student press, denies...

### **Schools selected to create models of democratic freedom**

<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/schools-selected-to-create-models-of-democratic-freedom>

*Schools become First Amendment Schools*

Washington, DC Eleven schools were announced today as the first project schools in the First Amendment Schools (FAS) initiative, a multiyear reform effort sponsored by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) and the First Amendment Center.

The initiative is designed to transform how all schools model and teach the rights and responsibilities...

## References

<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/tag/first-amendment-schools>

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/103054.aspx>