



## **Optional Material for Students of Faith Lesson Examples of denial of religious expression in public schools**

### **As told to Catholics for Freedom of Religion at Students of Faith lesson presentations:**

A student in a NY middle school was told not to bring her rosary to pray at lunch or it would be taken away and she would go to the principal's office.

A student at a Long Island, NY, high school was told he could not start an after-school Christian club because it was religious. First Liberty attorneys represented him two years in a row so the club was allowed.

Student in 4<sup>th</sup> grade on Long Island watched his teacher tear up his essay about Baby Jesus and throw it in the trash. She told him that we don't write about Jesus in this school and he would have to write another essay.

Student in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade asked the teacher how to spell "Jesus" for his paper and was told that "We don't use that name in school."

Student in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at a public school in Nassau County, NY, was made to go to the men's room and turn his t-shirt inside out because it showed a Bible verse.

Student in 7<sup>th</sup> grade on Long Island said that his principal has a rule that anyone talking about religion would get detention.

Student in 6<sup>th</sup> grade was told he could not write "Merry Christmas" in greeting cards to veterans.

In 2013 a Long Island, NY, school's concert included a version of Silent Night with the lyrics altered to remove religious references in the lyrics.

### **From First Liberty Institute:**

**Mercer County Schools** was sued over an optional class it offers that teaches students about the Bible; a judge threw this legal attack out of court.

**Moriah Bridges** was a graduating high school student in Beaver, Pennsylvania, who was asked by the senior class president to give remarks at their graduation ceremony on June 2, 2017. Moriah prepared her remarks but was then forced to "edit" her comments, removing any faith-based content. The practice of school district officials editing, controlling, and censoring student speech because of its religious viewpoint is unconstitutional. First Liberty requested a written statement from the school that its actions toward Moriah were wrong and would not occur toward other students in the future.

### **Many more examples at:**

<http://www.adflegal.org/issues/religious-freedom/k-12>

<http://www.becketlaw.org/area-of-practice/education/>