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## **Catlin Gabel Libraries Intellectual Freedom and Educating for Democracy**

As efforts to censor library materials become more organized, librarians throughout the country continue to uphold intellectual freedom, despite growing pressure. The library is a democratic institution where one's freedom to read is a core value.

Catlin Gabel librarians support and promote intellectual freedom in our three libraries daily. We intentionally develop library collections, guided by our board-approved policy, that reflect our pluralistic society. The librarians protect each individual's right to read and seek information, and explicitly teach how the library serves as a point of voluntary access to information and ideas for all.

The Catlin Gabel library team is especially committed to this work as educating for democracy is a pillar of progressive education. Our students benefit from library collections and library services that safeguard their intellectual freedom. They also benefit from learning that impinging on others' freedom only serves to weaken our collective freedom to read, seek information, and think for ourselves—essential habits of mind in a democratic society.

Like other democratic values, intellectual freedom is not guaranteed. It is a value that must be defended. Catlin Gabel librarians advocate intellectual freedom so that all community members can stoke their curiosity, explore their interests, and connect with others through reading.