



Guidelines for Navigating Differences with Grace

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love...

(Prayer attributed to St. Francis, BCP p. 833)



Compelled by our Episcopal Identity and desire to be a community of inclusion and belonging, Christ Church Episcopal School seeks to navigate the upcoming political season with humility, grace, and civility. We hope to avoid the pitfalls of hostility and division by leaning into the Gospel's call and our school's cornerstone: "to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." In order to uphold this ethos, we offer these simple reminders, guidelines, and questions:

REMINDERS*

As CCES employees, we are called to:

- Encourage students to think deeply about complex topics and foster civil discourse with and between students.
- Teach students how to think, not what to think.
- Prioritize relationships. People are not their political party or their opinion on policy.
- Share and model civil discourse with students and ground our behavior and speech in CCES's core values.
- Represent our core values in the community at all times.

GUIDELINES*

- Approach political conversations with a willingness to listen to ideas that differ from one's own.
- Respect everyone's right to hold individual ideas.
- Encourage expression through discussion without the intention of excessive persuasion or judgment.
- Avoid animosity, antagonism, mocking, or harassment.
- Champion empathy, curiosity, and dialogue.

QUESTIONS

- How does our school's Episcopal Identity influence or impact the way we treat one another?
- How might our school model civility during a season often characterized by hostility?
- What responsibility do we have as educators to model a better way?
- What does it look like in our classes, meetings, and practices to promote peace and justice despite our differences?

We strive to be an inclusive community where all people belong and feel welcome, valued, respected, and supported.

CHARACTER

We develop clear expectations and hold ourselves accountable.

We demonstrate respect, compassion, and consideration for ourselves, others, and our environment.

COMMUNITY

We actively listen and engage in open dialogue to learn from one another.

We create opportunities for connection, togetherness, relationship-deepening, and fun.

EXCELLENCE

We embrace mistakes and model vulnerability as opportunities to reflect and grow together.

We act with humility, open-mindedness, and curiosity as life-long learners.

SERVICE

We acknowledge and respond to the needs of others.

We are community-oriented and value learning through service to others.

*Adapted from NAES: Building Bridges in Episcopal Schools