

Last week we had an election. Elections are a push and pull of ideas and visions of the future. Most of our students cannot vote, but many were swept up in the hoopla of the presidential and other races. Elections challenge us to commit to candidates and their views of how our political life should be conducted. While of our engaged students want to vote, the age restriction can be freeing. Instead of a choice between candidates, students can choose among ideas. Our best classes will continue to have students grapple with ideas of how we ought to govern ourselves.

While our leaders have been chosen for this cycle, I hope the dialogue continues. What greater purpose can a public school have than to cultivate civically engaged students? And our students cannot engage fully without debating the way our political system addresses their needs and concerns. So let the end of this election lay to rest the partisan rancor. But let the continual challenge of creating solutions to our society's problems continue.

As we try to teach civil discourse, no skill is better than listening. What concerns do our students have about our country and its future? What values do they hold most closely, and how will those shape their choices of policies and leaders? Being curious is a crucial step towards understanding. So let's hear our students and their priorities. No doubt that will make us more engaged as well.

Speaking of winning and losing, good luck to our boys soccer team as they continue their incredible run in state finals!