



September 9, 2024

Dear Ellington Family -

The Ellington Public Schools' continues with its proactive initiative entitled—[Civil Discourse During Uncertain Times - Presidential Election 2024: Moving Away From Personalities & Toward Policy Driven Politics.](#)

On Tuesday, September 10th, Ellington High School (EHS) social studies educators will be teaching the first of three lessons to all students grades 9-12. The lesson will focus on the following:

[The Election of 2024 and the Seeds of Civility: A Practical Guide to Difficult Conversations](#)

The voluntary homework assignment for EHS students is to watch the Presidential Debate on Tuesday, September 10th at 9:00 p.m. to look for concepts of the [Seeds of Civility](#) and for policy-driven responses.

To view the slate of EHS' Presidential Election activities: [Executive Summary](#)

Middle and elementary-school grade-appropriate activities are under development by teachers and administration.

As a leader in the State, the Ellington Public Schools will continue to create conditions where all students feel empowered to share their beliefs—political leanings or otherwise—to foster healthy debate regarding the societal issues of the day.

Higher educational institutions—especially in Connecticut—are struggling with free speech issues as evidenced by a recent survey of college students. An [article](#) published in the Hartford Courant stated the following:

*On average, nearly 88% of respondents on the Connecticut campuses said that they have felt that they "could not express (their) opinion on a subject because of how other students, a professor, or the administration would respond" with nearly 48% reporting this feeling at least "once or twice a month."*

*An average of 68% of Connecticut respondents said that they have hidden their "political beliefs from (their) professors in an attempt to get a better grade," at least once.*

The Ellington Public Schools are proud of the open intellectual environment we have created this past decade—yet, we still have much to accomplish.

Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools