



In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb

February 26, 2021

This Monday will be March 1st. With just over three months of the school year left, I feel compelled to share in love and admiration with all of you. This year we have navigated the reopening of school, remote learning, expanded access to food and services, and allowing spectators at sporting events all while our students continue to learn. Thank you.

There is a saying that goes, "March comes in like a lion, out like a lamb." This is a nod to seasonal weather patterns as winter often persists only to give way to warmer spring-like conditions. There will undoubtedly be turbulent times ahead, and the Ellington Family will meet them with care, empathy and patience - knowing that we will err but overall, the warmth of the sun will continue to increase.

The Ellington Family is highly imperfect --at times, messy-- but that, as humans, is what makes us so perfect. Our family celebrates progress valuing the perspective and experiences of all, even when we are uncomfortable and might not fully understand. The Ellington Family honors free will, recognizing that an individual's free will shall not infringe upon the rights of others. Progress at the expense of one over another isn't progress at all.

Ellington's [Seeds of Civility](#), as unanimously endorsed by Ellington's Boards of Finance, Selectmen and Education, espouses the following:

- I. Listen, Observe and Reflect
- II. Assume Good Intentions
- III. Allow for Emotional Reactions
- IV. Speak One's Truth V. Face to Face
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- VI. Find Similarities, Value Differences
- VII. Debate the Issue, Respect the Person

Ellington educators endeavor to consistently create the conditions necessary to allow the Seeds of Civility to live in our schools and community. This is a noble but very challenging task. Their role is to facilitate while ensuring their personal biases remain personal, and to encourage students to exercise their right of free speech by balancing this responsibility with respectful and active listening skills.

Equity is the transformation of fear into courage and diversity is the elixir that accelerates progress. Not one student group --large or small-- nor any individual student should be fearful to engage others regarding their experiences and beliefs, as grounded in the Seeds of Civility.

The Ellington Family will not be divided, not by the national media, not by anyone. We will not be dependent on an external force to solve our challenges (to save us), but instead we will continue to love one another by being our best and unique individual selves. This special place we call Ellington welcomes all students and their families, whether one resides in Hartford or Ellington. Let us continue to come together by keeping the lines of communication open - for it is isolation that breeds fear.

As we lift each other up, with sincere peace and love to you all.

Dr. Scott V. Nicol
Superintendent of Schools