



Principles for Civil Discourse

To ensure that discourse in the McGehee community is conducted with civility and mutual respect, we are guided by our mission to “teach girls in an inclusive environment” and that we expect of our students “high personal standards” and “active participation in the learning process.”

To that end, we cultivate and invite students to develop agency, including a voice to express informed opinions, the ability to make decisions, the development of self-confidence, a capacity to organize, and the vision or ability to motivate others.

Therefore, we are committed:

- As members of a scholarly community that seeks out rich and varied points of view to welcome a wide diversity of viewpoints and opinions.
- As citizens in a democracy to understand the necessity of engaging in active dialogue with people with whom we may not always agree.
- To recognize that the world we inhabit, its people, and its history are all complex and to embrace ambiguity, nuance, and a lack of clear resolution in intellectual conversation.
- To acknowledge that the world can be a challenging place and to understand the importance of having challenging conversations.

Whilst we welcome a wide diversity of viewpoints and believe that such diversity makes our community stronger and ultimately more unified, **we do not tolerate any expression which dehumanizes others.** Language that demeans other individuals or groups of people on the basis of their gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, age, or ability are not acceptable in the McGehee community.