



Speak Up for Civility

AN ELECTION 2016 CONTRACT

As a school community, we will model what good citizenship looks like for our students and teach all students how a democratic republic works. We will also create an environment in which it's safe to explore—and disagree on—important topics.

At home and at school, when kids are listening, we will:

Call the candidates by name.

When talking about the election, we will refer to the candidates using their proper names and titles rather than derogatory nicknames.

Respect each other. We will not criticize other people for disagreeing with us.

Be curious and open-minded. When we disagree, we'll try to understand other perspectives. We will say, "Why do you think that?" instead of "You're wrong." We will allow for the possibility that what we hear might teach us something.

Speak up. We will remind each other of our civility contract when we hear disrespectful or unfair words about the candidates or groups of people.

Explain our reasoning. When we express support or opposition to a candidate, we will critique or



endorse their ideas, policies or behavior using civil language that draws on concrete evidence.

Involve kids. We will talk with our kids about the election, about our concerns and about what kind of country we want

them to inherit. We will tell them what traits we value in a candidate, what policies we support and how we weigh our decisions about who to vote for.

Encourage kids. We will empower our children to have their own opinions, even if they gravitate toward a candidate or political party we don't support.

Mind the messages. Whether it's on TV or in a social media post, our kids witness what we view and share. We will be mindful of the messages we bring into their lives.

Signed, _____

Name

Date

