

SHARED AIMS
[Last updated October 2019]

CIVIC BELONGING

Emotional connection to community and country is the first step toward civic faith and responsibility.

DEMOCRATIC FLUENCY

Knowledge of America’s intellectual and political traditions prepares students for a self-governing society.

CIVIC SKILLS

Competency in civil discourse, media literacy, and problem-solving teaches collaboration and engagement.

“Civic Spirit Schools graduate students who...”

<p>1. DEFINE WHAT IT MEANS TO BELONG ...know intellectually and affectively how various individuals and groups in America have or have not experienced belonging, and can speak about the importance of belonging for building a society together.</p>	<p>1. UNDERSTAND DEMOCRACY ...have a basic knowledge of how our governmental systems work -- from local to federal -- and are able to apply that knowledge to address current public issues.</p>	<p>1. DISCERN INFORMATION ...are educated consumers of the news, understand media bias and journalistic ethics, and can confidently access and evaluate information to make informed civic decisions.</p>
<p>2. ANCHOR THE SELF IN SOCIETY ...apply definitions of belonging to their own lives, including their role as citizens or committed residents of the United States, and contemplate how belonging might obligate them to act in society as a result.</p>	<p>2. COMPREHEND TEXTS & CORE IDEAS ...are familiar with the virtues and limitations of foundational texts that have animated thinking about American democracy, and how these texts and ideas have been challenged over time.</p>	<p>2. ENGAGE IN DISCOURSE ...are able to form and express thoughtful opinions on controversial topics while also respectfully engaging with others whose opinions may differ.</p>
<p>3. CONSIDER BARRIERS TO BELONGING ...recognize that even with professed values of equality, there have been and remain barriers to belonging in the United States, and feel responsible for expanding belonging for themselves and others.</p>	<p>3. CONSIDER THE ROLE OF RELIGION ...understand the ways religion and American democracy have intersected, and explore the ways their and other faith traditions contribute to the public square.</p>	<p>3. COLLABORATE ACROSS DIFFERENCE ...have experience spending time with people who have different cultural and faith backgrounds and experiences than their own, and are able to empathize and work together toward a common goal.</p>
<p>4. TRANSLATE BELONGING INTO ACTION ...are fueled by a sense of belonging and obligation to participate in civic society as informed, inspired, and invested members.</p>	<p>4. INCORPORATE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ...are curious about other countries’ intellectual and political traditions, and are able to apply global knowledge to better understand American democracy and international affairs.</p>	<p>4. EXERCISE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ...are aware of their constitutional rights and are committed to carrying out basic civic activities, such as informed voting.</p>
<p>5. LOOK TO THEIR FAITH ...have reflected individually and within their faith community on how religious tradition may inform, complicate, and/or motivate their sense of civic participation.</p>	<p>5. COMMIT TO ONGOING LEARNING ...see the pursuit of democratic knowledge as a lifelong venture and maintain intellectual humility when navigating new information.</p>	<p>5. SERVE AS CIVIC AMBASSADORS ...have identified and built their personal leadership skills, learning how to be a public servant to their communities and neighborhoods, and inspiring their peers to participate in the public square.</p>