

Our Mission is to be an exemplary learning community—enriched by differences, informed through inquiry, global in reach. Consistent with this Mission, the School strives to teach students to be independent, critical thinkers. The School welcomes civil dialogue among all community members and fosters such discussion by encouraging students to ask questions and test hypotheses, to consider global perspectives, and to take individual responsibility in support of their beliefs. The School is strengthened by the broad diversity of viewpoints within its community, and it is committed to encouraging inquiry and discourse.

This Communications Policy addresses **official School communications**, by any means, from the Head of School, or from another member of the School community when such communications could be perceived as stating a position on behalf of the School. This policy does not restrict the ability of members of the WIS community—acting in their own capacity—to express themselves or to engage in political/partisan activity. Nor does it restrict the ability of WIS students to explore and engage in civil dialogue regarding political or partisan issues in a manner that complies with the School’s rules and policies. Finally, this policy does not bar communications that highlight student learning, class/club activities, or other School activities (as long as such activities conform to School rules and policies).

- A. The School is a non-partisan organization with an educational charter. Consistent with this, the School shall not engage in partisan or political activities, including endorsing political candidates or taking partisan positions. As a general matter:
  - 1. The School shall apply its rules and policies in a non-partisan, non-political manner.
  - 2. The School shall not comment or take a position on political or partisan events, wherever they are occurring, unless the School is directly impacted and, in all events, only with approval of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.
  - 3. The School shall not organize or promote participation in off-campus political or partisan rallies or protests.

As with all other activities, political engagement on campus must comply with the School’s rules and policies.

- B. The School acknowledges a variety of issues are important to members of the community and understands there will be times when some in the community would like to see recognition by the School of an issue, movement, or event. As a general matter:
  - 1. An important component of the School’s Mission is to foster discussion and dialogue in the classroom and amongst teachers and students, and we strongly encourage such discussion and dialogue across a broad range of topics and issues.

2. Respect for the diversity of viewpoints in the WIS community means the School cannot be in the position of choosing amongst the many issues that concern our community and WIS will therefore generally refrain from official comment on such matters.
3. The School may issue official communications relating to large gatherings and other highly publicized events in the Washington, DC, area to the extent those events will or have the potential to impact the operations of the School or the WIS community.