Core Civic Habits
Practiced in First Amendment Schools

All members of a First Amendment School community understand that the five freedoms of the First Amendment provide a civic framework within which we are able to debate our differences, understand one another and serve the common good. All students who graduate from these schools, K-12, embody this understanding by demonstrating the civic habits of heart, mind, voice and work.

Civic Habits of Heart

- Take responsibility for self and others.
- Demonstrate clarity of moral purpose.
- Show concern for the welfare of others.
- Act with courage and compassion.
- Practice forgiveness and humility.
- Resolve differences in constructive ways.

Civic Habits of Mind

- Value inquiry that encourages and appreciates both complexity and ambiguity.
- Demonstrate knowledge of democratic principles, human rights and social justice.
- Practice critical reflection of self and others.
- Understand how to participate in the political process and democratic institutions that shape public policy.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

- See the four civic habits as a foundation for exercising freedom with responsibility.
- Exercise leadership for social justice.
- Understand, promote and model First Amendment principles in their lives.
- Balance individual interest with the common good.
- Protect the rights of others, especially those with whom they disagree.
- Encourage the inclusion of multiple perspectives in the public square.
- Value and demonstrate honesty and personal integrity.
- Understand and consider the long-term consequences of their actions.

Practicing the four civic habits is a shared responsibility among school, home and community, and results in citizens actively engaged in public life and working toward the common good.

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First Amendment SCHOOLS
EDUCATING FOR FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

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Civic Habits of Voice

- Listen and observe deeply, and respond in a connected way.
- Strive to exercise free speech responsibly.
- Speak out on matters of conscience.
- Agree and disagree honestly and respectfully.
- Believe that how we debate, not only what we debate, is critical.

Civic Habits of Work

- Connect convictions and actions with integrity and moral purpose.
- Work with integrity and persistence toward the common good.
- Integrate passions and deepest values into work.
- Work to counter prejudice and discrimination.
- Demonstrate self-discipline.