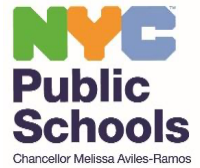


NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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November 4, 2024

Dear Stuyvesant Community,

As our country closely follows tomorrow's elections and the anticipated outcomes in the days that follow, I want to take this opportunity to affirm who we are at Stuyvesant—we are a community that values and embraces the heterogeneity of our students, staff, and families, including the wide range of thoughts, beliefs, and opinions that each individual holds. While we intellectually recognize that this heterogeneity is beneficial, we also acknowledge the emotional challenges that may arise when we encounter viewpoints that differ from our own.

At Stuyvesant, we do not shy away from challenges, but rather we lean into them. We are not looking for easy; we are looking for better. Therefore, we are committed to setting the standard for others by fostering a community where civil discourse and mutual respect are paramount. This commitment means ensuring that every member of our community feels valued, respected, and safe to express their views. It also means that those who want to express their views do so with the same respect and thoughtfulness toward their audience. There is an equal responsibility shared by both the speaker and the listener. Let us not forget this important relationship inherent in dialogue.

Now more than ever, it is essential that we model empathy, listening, and kindness in all our interactions—whether at school, at home, or in any space or place we occupy. Civil, public discourse and differences of opinion are essential to a healthy democracy. Engaging with an assortment of perspectives allows us to gain new insights and to grow—both as individuals and as a community.

I ask that each of us focus on building connections rather than divisions, particularly as the next days, weeks, and months unfold. We need every member of our community to uphold their role in making sure that our environment (in person and online) allows us to have a multitude of ideas and perspectives and to respectfully share and listen to them.

Thank you for your dedication to making Stuyvesant a place where respectful dialogue can thrive. Together, let us continue to set an example of thoughtful, inclusive, and civil engagement—regardless of the election's outcome—and remind ourselves of who we are at Stuyvesant.

Sincerely,

Dr. Seung Yu

Seung C. Yu
Principal
Stuyvesant High School