



GP-1

Merit Academy Educational Equity Policy

The vision of Merit Academy is “*students prepared for success in a free society, promoting civic responsibility and contributing their talents in a flourishing republic by pursuing beauty, truth, and good.*” A clear and effective educational equity policy is critical to realizing this vision for Merit Academy students and staff.

Merit Academy does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of background, race, skin color, ethnicity, or nationality.

Merit Academy believes in each child’s capacity to be a virtuous and responsible citizen.

At Merit Academy, “educational equity” is defined as providing equal opportunity for all Merit Academy students to reach their individual potential through an excellent education. Educational equity means equity of opportunity, not equity of outcome.

Merit Academy understands that individuals are unique and different from one another. These differences—including different talents, different capabilities, different backgrounds, and different interests—will be celebrated and thoughtfully cultivated. And though individuals are inherently different from one another, all individuals are created with equal inherent worth. We believe each student can pursue and achieve an American Dream through this equity of opportunity, regardless of what this may mean for that individual.

Merit Academy’s vision includes teaching its students to think critically and to pursue truth. The undeniable truth of human existence includes a reprehensible history of slavery and bigotry. Merit Academy also teaches its students to pursue beauty and goodness. America’s history encompasses the journey to freedom begun by the ideals of the Founders, continued through the sacrifices of the Civil War, and into the courageous Civil Rights Movement that emerged in the 1960s. This Civil Rights Movement, led by venerable American leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., taught that individuals should be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. This revolution in the human existence and insistence on equal rights is beautiful and good.

Accordingly, Merit Academy will neither teach its students, nor train its staff, that individuals are somehow inherently “good” or “bad,” guilty or innocent, or more or less capable than others, due to their race, background, ethnicity, or skin color. We believe that no attainder of guilt shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture, except during the life of the guilty person.

Merit Academy will teach its students that bigotry and prejudice have no place in society.

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Merit Academy is not partisan nor political. Therefore, Merit Academy will not propagate ideologies or topics that teach students what to think. This instruction is the province of parents.

Merit Academy will continually celebrate the diversity of its students, and the ideas of our nation. We will cultivate the hearts and minds of each learner towards his or her talents, interests, capabilities, and ultimately, individual success, in furtherance of Merit Academy's vision.

Adopted 08/21