



November 1, 2024

Dear BUA families,

We have been thinking a great deal about how best to support our students through next week's election and the days that follow. I'm writing to share what we have put in place.

Elections are a regular and powerful part of our political system. Closely contested and charged elections are not new in American history. An election is not by nature a crisis, and we do students a disservice if we frame elections that way. At the same time, this election has produced and will continue to elicit strong feelings among many because of the rhetoric and issues at stake. BUA is not a political or partisan organization, but we do have a responsibility to support students and each other as we navigate the coming days, no matter the outcome (or even uncertainty about an outcome). It is entirely in line with our mission to educate students so that they can better understand their world and create spaces for them to talk, learn, and process – especially about hard things. I promised as much in our [opening all-school meeting](#).

This past Tuesday, we welcomed BU history professor **Dr. Bruce Schulman**, who talked about several key presidential elections in the 20th century with the goal of helping us all understand how we have landed with this particular flavor of two-party election in 2024. This kicked off a series of ASM talks, mostly from BU professors, on a range of important domestic and global topics. Dr. Schulman will be hosting a follow-up lunch with interested students later this month.

This afternoon, we will host a session of **Conversations@BUA** – an opt-in in-person discussion hosted by teachers on issues of the day. In today's session, students will explore the Massachusetts ballot initiatives – a helpful reminder about the central role of local politics.

On 11/6, the day after the election, **classes will meet as usual**. For many of our students, following a predictable routine and structure on that day and the following days will be just the right thing. Some teachers may choose to create space for students to discuss the election results (or pending results) in class. Most will conduct lessons in their typical fashion.

We will host **opt-in student discussion circles** over lunch on 11/6 (and maybe other days as well) about the election and related issues. Teachers will moderate those sessions. We have created protocols to guide those conversations in thoughtful,

constructive ways. I'm grateful to Dr. Alvarez and to the faculty members working with her on that initiative.

As always, if students need additional support, we are here. Our faculty, advisors, school psychologist, and other members of the student support team are standing by for anything our students need. Please reach out any time.

Warmly,

Chris Kolovos
Head of School