

Statements about National and World Events

In the great majority of cases, BUA generally has not and will not issue statements or take positions in response to national and world events. There are many reasons for that. Our mission charges us to create an environment where kind and curious students can read, think, explore, engage, and thrive. We are not charged with attempting to move the external political discourse or promote partisan causes. To get in the habit of issuing statements on world events would not just distract from our mission, but potentially be counterproductive. The unavoidable exercise of choosing which events – among the dozens of injustices and tragedies making headlines each month – to comment on and on which to remain silent poses a real risk; our silence could erroneously signal the school's lack of care for a cause near to the hearts of members of our community. Even well-meaning statements aligned with the school's values could, in this way, chill speech and create a less-than-welcoming environment for students and families.

We *will* write to our students and families, though, when events arise outside our walls that impact the student body's well-being and call for some broad-based action by the school. Our communications will focus on our actions – what we are doing to care for, educate, and foster healthy conversation among our students in light of outside events.

It would be a mistake to interpret our silence as unprincipled neutrality. We believe deeply in our core values and try to live by them, even in a world that seems to spurn the kindness and belonging we take pride in. We take seriously our responsibility to teach students ethical ways of thinking and action – understanding that while there is a whole universe of topics open to reasoned debate, there is also right and wrong. And we will continue to encourage students to see themselves as powerful agents of positive change in a world that needs them.