



# EAGLE RIDGE

## ACADEMY

January 25, 2018

Dear Eagle Ridge Academy Community,

Finding peace and quiet in a culture that constantly overloads our senses through television, social media, and online news reports is a challenge. Creating time for contemplation, thoughtful discussion, and study is difficult. Never before have opinions been shouted across so many platforms, and never before have they been able to reach so many people in such a short amount of time. The opinions that are broadcasted are not always based on facts or, even more dangerous, are based on misleading versions of facts. How are we supposed to hear anything when there is so much noise? How are we able to have discussion and debate around ideas when we don't listen or have correct information?

At Eagle Ridge Academy, our students receive a Classical Education that explicitly teaches them how to engage in civil discourse. In his book *In Defense of Civility*, James Calvin Davis defines civil discourse as “the exercise of patience, integrity, humility, and mutual respect in civil conversation, even (or especially) with those with whom we disagree” (2010, 159). It is becoming increasingly challenging to find individuals capable of engaging in civil discourse on issues of significance. In their Great Conversation, America's founding fathers modeled dialog, which leads to wisdom and virtue. In general, contemporary American society often finds itself at odds with this notion. However, the pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness through learning is inherent in cultivating wisdom and virtue. This is why Eagle Ridge Academy exists.

Our students engage in civil discourse most commonly in our Humanities classes. There they have the opportunity to listen to, exchange, and understand the views of others, to treat the ideas of others with respect through discussion, to dialogue, and to debate. Unfortunately, Twitter, Facebook, and memes have become Americans' preferred way of stating opinions; however, the graduates of Eagle Ridge Academy are equipped to bring back civil discourse as a tool to encourage innovation, creativity, and meaningful decision making.



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### Community Updates

One would think that after the holiday season break, we would be refreshed and ready to go! However refreshed we may be, though, life seems to speed up. Students have finished their finals, and teachers have graded them and posted grades.

- The [2018-2019 School Calendar](#) was approved by the Board of Directors on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and posted online.
- During our upcoming Feb. 22 Staff Development, teachers will receive training in reading, vocabulary, Classical Education, and habits of discussion. There will be no school for students on this day.
- Activities Director Search: The Activities Advisory Team will interview three Activities Director candidates on Jan. 29.
- Schools of Logic and Rhetoric Principal Search: The Eagle Ridge Academy Candidate Profile Team reviewed recommendations from the community on Monday, Jan. 22. Students, staff, and parents submitted characteristics and experiences that they are looking for in their next principal. The [Candidate Profile](#) is available on our website and will be used as a recruiting tool.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility on Tuesday during the two-hour late start. Please know we have a process on these days to better understand the conditions.

1. Contact other local school districts
2. Personally drive the roads from Maple Grove, to Chaska, then Shakopee, Richfield, and finally Hopkins.

We try to make the best decision that works for the most families. Because of the large area of our attendance and bussing routes, the road conditions vary greatly. That is why we leave the final decision up to families. Thank you again and hopefully we will not have to make any more tough decisions.

Sincerely,

Jason Ulbrich, Executive Director