Making the Case for High-quality Civics:
A Letter Template for Parents/Guardians

We hope you found the blog post encouraging! Below, you'll find a letter template to help you communicate the importance of civic education and build stronger connections with your students' families. Feel free to copy, personalize, and make it your own!

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DATE

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As your child’s civics teacher, and in keeping with my commitment to the important partnership between educators and parents/caregivers in ensuring the success of each student, I am writing to share my approach to teaching civics to your child.

First, I want you to know that I became a civics teacher because <make it personal>

Second, when it comes to your student's civic education, my primary objective is to <talk about your teaching philosophy>

Third, what I love about teaching civics is that its benefits go well beyond preparing young people “to be the future guardians of the liberties of the Country” (hat tip to George Washington for that inspiring description!). Research, anecdotes, and personal experience tell me that students who receive a high-quality civic education are more likely to demonstrate literacy gains, complete college and develop employable skills, discuss current issues and events at home (which I hope you’ll encourage!), be confident in speaking publicly and communicating with elected officials, and vote and volunteer and work on community issues.

Fourth and finally, let’s not forget that the civic mission of schools—preparing young people for their roles as citizens in our republic—is the original purpose of the great American public school system. As Thomas Jefferson once proclaimed, “I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education.” James Madison posited that civic education and engagement were bulwarks against “crafty and dangerous encroachments on the public liberty.” And George Washington, in his Eighth Annual Address to Congress in 1796, said, “a primary object of such a National Institution should be, the education of our Youth in the science of Government. In a Republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important?”

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, and thank you for your partnership in your child’s education.

Your Name

Your Title

*Please complete, sign, and return this portion to acknowledge receipt of this letter.*

Student Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best form of contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Please check this box if you’d like to schedule a meeting with me.