



University Liggett School

As we approach the winter break, we write with an update on our [strategic planning process](#) through which together we will shape the future of University Liggett School.

First, and most immediately, we would like to remind you that our community survey closes tomorrow, December 14. If you have not already done so, please add your voice to the strategic planning process by following this link to complete the survey:

All surveys are now closed.

The data we collect through this survey from students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, and trustees will shape much of the work we will undertake in the months ahead as we revisit our mission, develop our vision, and craft our strategic plan.

Core Values Week Recap

Last week, we experienced the potential impact of our strategic planning efforts during Core Values Week. Trustees, parent leaders, faculty, staff, middle school students, and upper school students engaged in a thoughtful exercise that considered, shared, refined, and discussed those values which could serve as the foundational expression of our shared beliefs.



In an array of small group settings we took time out of our normal routines to pause and focus on a fundamental part of our belief structure. Throughout the course of the meetings, administrators, faculty, and trustees served as facilitators, guided by our strategic planning consultant, Christina Drouin, founder of the [Center for Strategic Planning](#).

For those of us who had the pleasure of observing each of the sessions, the engagement of all who participated was a source of inspiration and a reflection of the devotion so many have toward the ULS community. Most noteworthy, of course, were the contributions of our middle and upper school students and their willingness to engage in an exercise that at first might have seemed far outside their normal routines at school. As is often the case, the sense of maturity and focus they brought to the exercise served as a reminder of our work's higher purpose.

This week, at our monthly strategic planning committee meeting, we will review the quantitative data from the core values exercise. We will also begin a process of crafting statements to accompany and serve as expressions of each core value that emerges as commonly held across our community. Eventually, we will forward our proposed final draft of core values to the Board of Trustees for their review and potential adoption. Only then will we be ready to undertake an extended period of work over many years to infuse the core values into our community.

After the new year, the strategic planning committee will turn its attention to the next phase of our foundational work by exploring University Liggett School's mission statement and the degree to which it effectively serves as an expression about why our community exists:

“Our mission is to empower students to develop intellectual curiosity, leadership and confidence to contribute to a complex and changing world. We challenge students to excel and to achieve their highest potential. We create opportunities for discovery and achievement by developing a faculty who foster the strengths of each student through the Liggett Approach. We teach and practice the values of respect and responsibility in an emotionally and physically safe environment.”

As that work unfolds, we look forward to having the feedback from our community survey inform our efforts. We also look forward to providing you with more updates this winter as together we move into a very bright future on behalf of our students.

Sincerely,

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Dean of Curriculum and Assessment
Strategic Planning Co-Chair

Maureen Juip
Trustee and Current Parent
Strategic Planning Co-Chair

Tom Sheppard
Head of School
Strategic Planning Co-Chair