

## STATEMENT ON GENDER DIVERSITY Approved by The Board of Trustees April 2022

## **Upholding Our Mission**

When Caroline Hewitt founded our school in 1920, Hewitt and other girls' schools founded at the time were trailblazers in their day, because they were places where girls and young women could receive a broad liberal arts education that was at the time reserved only for men. Girls' schools ultimately paved the way for girls and young women to go to colleges and universities, become everything from scientists, to mathematicians, to lawyers, and fundamentally expanded what a girl and woman could be in society. One hundred years later, the conversation about gender identity and gender diversity in girls' schools is the latest chapter of the historical evolution of gender roles in society, and we welcome that conversation at Hewitt.

Our mission is to inspire girls and young women to become game changers and ethical leaders who forge an equitable, sustainable, and joyous future. As a school dedicated to the education and leadership of girls and young women, we believe that there are many ways to be a girl or a young woman, and that the strength of our community depends on all students experiencing healthy development and a sense of belonging.

## **Supporting Current Students**

If currently enrolled Hewitt students no longer identify as girls or young women, they will continue to have a home at Hewitt and will not be asked to leave because of their gender identity. Hewitt will work closely with the student and the student's family to ensure the student's healthy development and sense of belonging in a community committed to the education and leadership of girls and young women.

Given the dynamic nature of the conversation about gender, the Hewitt Board of Trustees and school leadership will continually monitor the experience of all students, families, teachers, and staff members, with particular attention to supporting our students and remaining true to our mission as a girls' school.

For questions about this statement or how it guides our everyday work with students, families, faculty, and staff, <u>please contact us</u>. We remain committed to fostering open dialogue in alignment with our mission, values, and diversity and inclusivity statement.