January 1st, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lucy Russell, and I am a sophomore at UNC-Chapel Hill. I am the Program Director of Civics in the Triangle, an organization within UNC-Chapel Hill’s nonpartisanInstitute of Politics (https://www.unciop.org/). The program places motivated UNC undergraduates in local 4th and 5th grade classrooms to teach history, civics, and government lessons. We believe that it is our responsibility to equip the next generation--the future leaders of North Carolina and our country--with the knowledge and skills to become engaged citizens. By facilitating dialogues about our roles in our communities, we hope to promote civic engagement at a young age. We aim to inspire students to immerse themselves in their local communities and grow into active participants in our democracy.

One of our final lessons this fall culminated in an activity where 5th grade students were instructed to pen a letter to one branch of the federal government. Students chose to write to either the President, a Supreme Court Justice, or a North Carolina Congressman or Senator.

I am including this message to request a reply to our bright and talented students’ letters. If you would be so kind to reply to their messages and encourage them to continue their community engagement, they will undeniably be inspired to pursue meaningful participation in our democracy. I urge you to remind them to pursue our opportunities in the United States and of the importance of the power of our obligations as citizens.

If you are able to, please address a reply to:

Ms. Jeffries-- 5th Grade Northside Elementary

350 Caldwell Street

Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516

Ms. Jeffries will pass along the message to all of the 5th grade students in the various classrooms at Northside Elementary.

On behalf of the Civics in the Triangle team, thank you so much. Thank you for your service, thank you for your passion for the United States of America, and thank you for serving as an inspiration for our youth. We are humbled to have the opportunity to work with these students, and we hope that they are able to have the delight of receiving a response.

All the best,

Lucy Russell