



March 9, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may know, March 14 has been suggested as a day for students to hold a protest against gun violence in schools across the country. The walkout is a call to Congress to pass legislation to keep communities safe from gun violence. Students also want to acknowledge and honor the 17 victims of the shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on February 14.

I feel there are some important considerations in the organization of this kind of event, among them:

- Student safety is paramount
- Any protest should have a goal with a potentially positive outcome
- We should capitalize on lessons students can learn from the experience

With these items in mind, on March 14 we will be holding an optional program for students who wish to participate. The program will begin at 10:00 with students walking to the gym. In the gym, students will read the names of victims and hold a moment of silence on their behalf. Students will be given information on how to write letters to their state and National legislators in History classes if they wish to show their support for change in gun legislation. To be clear, any classroom discussion on the issue will be presented by educators in a non-partisan way and any related political action will be student-driven, not adult-driven. The program will end after 17 minutes and the regular school day will continue.

During the program all classes will run as usual and students may choose to remain in their classes or join in the program without any repercussions either way.

This program provides our students who are passionate about this cause with an opportunity to show their support in a safe and productive manner.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. DeMeo  
Principal