

Dear Families of MSAD No. 75;

On Wednesday, March 14th, some of our middle and high school students plan to participate in a 17 minute walkout in response to the tragedy in Parkland, Florida. We may have differing opinions on how to best accomplish this, we are all in agreement that school should be a place where students never have to worry about their safety!

There will not be any single action that will accomplish that. These are complex issues facing schools across the country. We recognize that families who live and work in our four towns have diverse, sometimes conflicting views, about how to address school safety.

We plan to respect the desire of those students who choose to voice their concerns about the safety of schools. This activity will be student-led, and we will not impose consequences on the students who participate provided that students comply with our expectations of responsible and respectful behavior.

We also recognize that some students will not participate and will hold different views. Our task as educators will be to support all of our students, and create a safe environment for their voices to be heard.

We will communicate to all of our students that we expect that this event should be a brief interruption in the school day, and that we expect all of our students to resume their studies promptly.

For elementary students, this day is a late start Wednesday and their arrival time conflicts with the timing of the event. In addition, parents of younger children may have gone to great lengths to limit their children's awareness about school violence. We are not anticipating that K-5 students would organize and participate in the event.

Please take time to share your expectations as a parent with your child. Remind them that our school administrators, counselors and social workers are there to help, listen and support them. Thank you for your support and concern during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Brad Smith
Superintendent of Schools
MSAD No. 75