

Marathon Central School District
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
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Mrs. Rebecca Stone
Superintendent

Mr. Joshua Martin
Marathon Junior/Senior High School Principal

March 12, 2018

Dear Families,

Following the tragic shooting in a Florida high school on February 14, students around the country are planning walkouts to protest school violence. Anticipating that this movement may come to Marathon Central Schools, we want you to know how our district plans to support our students.

We respect the fact that many of our students may desire to express their opinion about these walk out movements, and some may wish to join in. We are working with the high school student council to provide students with an avenue to express their opinions while remaining on our campus. On March 14th, the high school student council will be holding a meeting as an avenue for students to voice safety concerns within the school district. Students not in Student Council may attend but ONLY if they have a pre-signed pass signed by Mrs. McDougal prior to the meeting. The open forum meeting is only for students in grades 9 - 12. The Junior High Student Council is developing plans for 7th and 8th graders to express their opinions while remaining on campus. Students will be excused from class if participating in planned activities sponsored by the school in an appropriate way. Students will still be responsible for the work they miss during those activities.

The High School Student Council will also be hanging a banner for students to sign. The banner "Stand Up. Stand Together." is a call for the entire student population to come together as a unit; to reach out to all students who need a smile. Bracelets have been ordered and will be distributed to support the message.

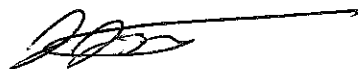
We understand that students want to exercise their First Amendment rights to express their views on this important topic. When students advocate for an issue they feel passionate about, it can be a powerful learning experience. It is our expectation that students will respect the rules of our school and remain on campus and in class during the school day to protect their safety and the safety of others; and by accessing the avenues for their personal expression of opinion we make available during the school day. Students that choose to walk out will be addressed according to our code of conduct, as we would in any situation where students are out of class unexcused and will be disciplined for truancy and/or insubordination accordingly. We also recognize that some students may not want to participate in any activities surrounding this topic and would prefer to stay in class. We want to ensure that all students feel safe and respected, no matter what they choose to do.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Stone
Superintendent



Joshua Martin
Junior/Senior High School Principal