

Eastern View High School Families,

As you may have heard from media sources, students from around the nation are planning a walkout on March 14th in response to the tragic school shooting that took place in Parkland, Florida. Student leaders at Eastern View High School have expressed their desire to participate in this event.

As educators, we recognize that student activism is a part of the learning process. When kids are passionate about an issue it is an opportunity for educators to help students see the connection between curriculum and real life. We respect and support the right of our students to advocate for causes that are important to them and welcome the opportunity to work with any student or student group to discuss **appropriate** ways to do so while at school. We also recognize the rights of students who do not want to participate during any such advocacy activities.

Any student walkout will need to be in accordance with School Board policy which can be found on page 33 of the Code of Conduct. Therefore the EVHS Student Council has met with me to make sure there is an appropriate plan of action in place for students who may choose to participate in a walkout. We have agreed to allow students to walk out of class at 10:00 on Wednesday, March 14 and to walk outside of the school in silence to identified locations on our property. After 17 minutes of silence they will be directed to return to class and continue learning. They also understand that students have the right to not participate. I have made it clear to the student body that any negative comments or unkind actions by students with whom they disagree about the walkout may be a violation of the code of conduct and subject to a disciplinary action.

We are proactively working with students, teachers, school counselors and our School Resource Officer to ensure this walkout is conducted in a manner that is respectful, safe, and provides students with a firsthand lesson in the exercise of free speech within the confines of safety and respect for the opinions and beliefs of others.

I encourage you to talk to your child(ren) about how they may be feeling about the tragedy in Parkland and their desire to participate in the walkout. Please stress the importance of expressing themselves in appropriate ways and respecting the rights of others who may think differently.

Thank you for your continued support of Eastern View High School. Enjoy your evening, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

E.G. Bradshaw, Jr.
Principal

