

Dear District 81 Families,

The recent tragedy in Parkland Florida and other campuses across the nation have activated students to raise their voices in peaceful protests against gun violence, including student walkouts. As of today, two major student-led efforts are underway:

**March 14:** Women's March Youth EMPOWER has called for a 17-minute school walkout nationwide at 10am to honor the 17 victims of the Parkland, Florida shooting and call attention to school safety.

**April 20:** National School Walkout for students across the nation in local districts.

I am writing to share District 81's plan to maintain a safe and respectful learning environment for students and staff while encouraging our students to openly express their voice through peaceful protest, while also being respectful to those students who choose not to participate.

### **Lincoln Middle School**

Several students at Lincoln Middle School have approached the building administrators regarding participation in the walkout planned for March 14, 2018. With the interest of our students' safety in mind, we have planned a "walk-in" to allow for a peaceful protest. Our middle school students will have two options to express their voice on gun violence in schools. Students who choose not to participate will follow their normal routine for the 17 minutes of peaceful protest.

- 1) Walk to the gymnasium and sit in **peaceful silence** for 17 minutes in honor of the 17 lives lost in the Parkland school shooting.
- 2) Walk to the cafeteria and write a letter to legislators regarding gun laws.

I recognize that opinions vary on the complex and sensitive issue related to gun laws. Schiller Park School District 81's goal is to provide our students with a "voice" and a peaceful opportunity to protest. However, we do not plan to influence your child's perspective. Please spend time discussing your family's viewpoints in advance of March 14th so that your child is prepared to decide how they would like to participate in the planned event, if at all.

### **Washington and Kennedy Schools**

There are no planned events at our elementary schools due to the age and varied developmental level of our students in grades preschool-fifth grade. We understand that families may choose to have their child participate in a family organized activity for the planned 17 minutes of peaceful protest from 10:00-10:17. Please be advised normal sign-in and sign-out procedures will be in place when picking up from and returning your child to school.

Thank you in advance for your support. Please feel free to contact me or your child's building principal with any questions or concerns you may have.

Respectfully,



Kimberly Boryszewski

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly Boryszewski".

Kimberly Boryszewski