



March 8, 2018

Dear Charlotte Parents and Guardians:

We have once again been stunned and shocked by a school violence tragedy. Since the unfortunate incident in Parkland, Florida, student voices across the nation and our state have risen up to be heard. In doing so, it has made us all stop and listen and think more intentionally about school safety and the students we serve.

Student voices, led by Parkland survivors, have initiated some planned nationwide student events against school violence. The dates for these nationwide events are Wednesday, March 14, one month from the Parkland incident, and April 20, the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Columbine incident. The March 14<sup>th</sup> event will take place at 10:05 a.m. for 17 minutes in honor of the 17 students and faculty that lost their lives that tragic day.

Student representatives from the Middle School and High School have consulted with building administrators and teaching staff to develop a plan designed to honor the victims of the school violence incidents and bring local attention to school safety.

Students at the Middle School have indicated they would like to utilize the time at 10:05 a.m. in a constructive way and write postcards to our State representatives which will focus on school safety.

At the High School, students in the AP Government classes will sell buttons that highlight the nationwide effort. The buttons will be available to all High School students with all proceeds to be sent to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. If some High School students do choose to exercise their First Amendment right of expression to walk out of class, they will mobilize in the High School lobby where they will be safe and supervised. Students will return to class after an appropriate amount of time aligned with the nationwide effort. The entire building will hold a 17 second moment of silence at 10:05 a.m. to honor the 17 students and faculty.

Over the recent years, Charlotte Public Schools have implemented many school safety features and practices in all of our buildings. A few of these include: single secured door entrances; security cameras internally and externally; night-lock door security devices; OK2Say – a tip line for students with any concerns; cooperative emergency drills with local First Responders; mock drills with local and regional First Responders; and our Rave Panic button which provides instant communication to First Responders and internal staff members.

Preventing school violence is everyone's responsibility. If you or your student hear or see something suspicious, please share it immediately with your school or law enforcement authorities. Everyone has a role and shares in the ultimate goal of school safety. Our desire is to create conditions where students know they are safe and can communicate concerns if they are aware of any dangerous situation.

Our students will have the opportunity, in memory of the victims of Margery Stoneman Douglas High School, to show their support and make a positive statement that has a meaningful impact in our schools and community.

Respectfully,

Mark D. Rosekrans  
Superintendent