



Huntington High School

"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1657"

Mr. Brenden Cusack
Principal

March 2, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The recent tragedy in Parkland, Florida on February 14th has driven increased interest in student-led civic engagement efforts and actions, including the possibility of school walk-outs. While a school may not endorse a student walkout, Huntington High School respects our students' Constitutional rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. Our goal in responding to a planned student walk-out is to keep our focus on teaching and learning while at the same time providing students and staff with support in order to ensure the safety of all.

Based upon social media posts nationwide and discussions with our students, it appears that a student-led walk-out may be planned for **March 14th at approximately 10 AM**. According to the information we have received, this walk-out is planned to last about 17 minutes.

In an effort to allow students to have their voices heard on all sides of this terribly important topic, a **National Issues Forum** is being planned by students and the faculty of our Social Studies Department. This event is scheduled for the evening of **March 13th at 6:30 PM** in the cafeteria of Huntington High School. The forum, entitled **"How Can We Stop Mass Shootings in Our Communities?"** will be led by student moderators. It is intended for high school students, parents, family and community members. This is an exercise designed to engage in productive, respectful and meaningful dialogue on an issue that has served to evoke passion and opposing viewpoints in our country. I invite you and your children to join us for this important event. Students will be provided with community service credit for attending and engaging in this outstanding learning experience.

In the event that students choose to participate in a walk-out from school, please know that an absence from class will not be considered an excused absence. If a student misses an assignment due to this activity, it cannot be made up. Please also know that any participating students will be expected to carefully follow our code of conduct. Students may not disrupt the educational process and may not infringe upon the rights of others who choose not to participate. Students who engage in a walk-out will be monitored by Huntington High School staff at all times for their safety, and they will be given instructions regarding egress from the building. Students will be provided a staging area on campus and will be expected to comply with the directives of staff members at all times. Students may not leave campus at any time during this event.

In these times of heightened emotion, I ask that you please speak with your children about their feelings on this topic and any plans they may have for expressing their viewpoints. We at Huntington High School are, as always, committed to supporting your children's learning, safety and emotional well-being.

Sincerely,

Brenden P. Cusack
Principal