

AMHERST COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Post Office Box 1257
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Dr. Steven Nichols
Superintendent

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March 13, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In recognition of the fatal school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, there has been a call across the nation for students and schools to unite in memory of the seventeen individuals who lost their lives. Amherst County Public Schools has elected to permit secondary students to participate in the national "walk-out" scheduled for 10:00 AM on Wednesday, March 14, 2018. We believe this event should be a solemn occasion that will be designed to honor the victims and unite the school around the issue of school safety in a safe and dignified manner.

Each secondary school will allow the students to leave their classrooms at 10:00 AM to stand silently in the hallway. Each school plans to have the students create unity chains on which they have written their thoughts or remarks on a paper link. Each school will have members of the student body read the names and have a moment of silence for each of the victims who lost their lives. We are asking that the students stay inside the school so we can provide a safe and secure environment for this event.

This event is not intended to be a political event. Instead, the student "walk-out" is designed as a solidarity and unity event to allow our students an opportunity to show support for the victims of the school shooting and to express their concerns about school safety. Amherst County Public Schools wants to facilitate our students' ability to express their concerns in an orderly fashion that does not cause a disruption to the educational environment.

Please feel free to contact your student's respective school if you have any specific questions about events planned for this memorial.

Sincerely,



Dr. Stephen Nichols
Superintendent