

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALEXIS McGLOIN, Ed.D
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ANDREA FARINA, Ed.D
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

SANDRA KASSEL
SECRETARY-BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Upper Perkiomen Community,

The most recent act of school violence has understandably raised concerns and emotions. Since February 14th and my communication on school safety, we have been focused on responding to and addressing concerns. Safety and security have always been a top priority and will continue to be carefully examined.

As you may be aware, nationwide student walkouts are being planned on March 14th in response to the February 14th shooting in Florida. The event calls for a walkout at 10 a.m. for a duration of 17 minutes—one minute for each life taken at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Our student leaders spoke with our high school administrative team to discuss an opportunity for students to walk out in remembrance of those who lost their lives in school shootings, for the many more who have been impacted by it and as a call for school safety. The administrators and I will continue to work with student groups over the next week and a half to develop a plan for students who wish to participate, as well as those who do not. It is our responsibility to provide a safe environment for all.

As a district, we neither encourage nor discourage student walkouts, and we will not prevent students from participating or discipline them if they do. Administration will help facilitate any walkouts so that they are carried out in a safe and supportive environment. We want any type of march to be a positive learning experience for students. Above all, we want their voices to be heard.

Over the past week, we have received inquiries about our participation in the national student walkout. Though we are still in the planning stages, I would like to clarify some aspects regarding the potential March 14th walkout:

- This is a full day of school for all students.
- Students will not be disciplined for participating in the March 14th activity if they participate in a walkout on school grounds and then return to class.
- Students and staff may opt out of the walkout. Alternative arrangements will be made for those individuals at 10 a.m.

- For safety and security purposes, parents and members of the community **may not** participate in this student activity. Our facilities cannot be open to the public during a school day. Our administrative team continues to work with local authorities to provide a safe and secure environment.

While we strive to be supportive of our students in regards to difficult topics such as school violence, we ask parents to continue this support and talk about these issues at home. For information on what to say to your children about this emotional topic, here are additional online resources:

[Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)

[Tips: Talking to Children After Traumatic Event](#)

[Helping Children Cope with Tragedy](#)

[Resources for Talking and Teaching About the School Shooting in Florida](#)

I appreciate your patience while we work to find the best means possible for our students to organize and express themselves in a safe and orderly manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexis McGloin".

Dr. Alexis McGloin
Superintendent of Schools