



Dorchester County  
Public Schools  
Every Child A Success!

# SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Diana L. Mitchell., Ed.D., Superintendent

DATE: March 14, 2018

Our hearts and prayers go out to the victims in Parkland, Florida. Tomorrow, March 14 at various times throughout the day, Dorchester County secondary schools will be participating in peaceful in-school expressions to recognize the February 14 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The goal of the demonstration is to “demand Congress pass legislation to keep students safe from gun violence in schools, on our streets, in our homes, and in places of worship”. Principals of secondary schools within Dorchester County Public Schools were asked to organize **in-school activities** for students to allow them to express solidarity with the anti-violence message the walk out is hoping to promote. These are the activities planned by each school:

**Cambridge-South Dorchester High School** – These plans were developed by C-SDHS’ Student Government Association with the support of Assistant Principal, Dr. Barnes.

8:50 – Students will be called to the gym for the event by departments.

9:00 – Introduction by C-SD administration.

9:05 – Speech by Student Government President Daniel Garcia or Faizan Ahmed on the reason and purpose of the gathering.

9:10 – Talks from Sheriff Phillips and Chief Lewis or their designees on how gun violence impacts us all. Students will have 17 seconds of silence to honor the victims of the Parkland shooting.

9:20 – Students will be encouraged to sign the reflections wall and the banners. #neveragain will be the focus of one of the banners. Students can write inspirational words and comments on the banner, as well as sign the safety promise. The name banner will have the names of the victims of the Parkland, Florida shooting, and students will have the opportunity to add the names of other victims. The banners will be hung Wednesday through Friday so everyone has an opportunity to sign them. Bell will sound for 2<sup>nd</sup> period for students to return to class.

Students will wear burgundy, black, or silver, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School colors.

**North Dorchester High School** – Students are being encouraged to exercise their voice specific to the issue of school safety on this day. Working with the Student Government Association, the following voluntary event was established to allow students to participate in this initiative in a safe and meaningful way. At 9:00 a.m. students who want to participate in the student voice initiative will be called to the auditorium. Once everyone is assembled, Michael Nossick, Student Government Association President, will set the purpose of the gathering. Students will be able to complete several activities including:

- Identifying observable acts of kindness – what does it look like, sound like, feel like?
- Draft short words of hope and solidarity to be mailed to students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.
- “I feel” banner

- Social circle
- Hand painted “Hand in Hand” canvas will be created to be displayed at NDHS.

The event will conclude at 9:50 a.m.

**Maces Lane Middle School** – Students will participate in the following activities during Unified Arts:

- Art – Designing positive postcards to mail to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.
- Gym – 17 jumping jacks – “We are getting our heart pumping because our hearts go out to you.”
- Music and Band – Singing “do re mi fa so la ti do” scale twice with the 17<sup>th</sup> note singing “Amen”.
- Computer Apps and Media – Typing “Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, you are not forgotten!”
- STEM – Developing a list of 17 Acts of Kindness MLMS students and staff can display every day.

**North Dorchester Middle School** – Seventeen homerooms will be assigned one of the individuals who were killed during the shooting in Parkland, Florida. The remaining seven homerooms will be assigned the theme “NDMS Against School Violence”. The class will design a sidewalk square in memory of the individual or theme assigned. Students will decorate the squares outside on a later date. In addition, students and staff are working on a video called “Our Why” which includes each staff member stating or holding a sign indicating their “why” for being a teacher, and students sharing “why” they come to school every day. The “whys” of the students and staff will be merged together, put to music, and played for students tomorrow.