

Dear RHS families,

Following the tragic shooting at a Florida high school on February 14, there has been a collective momentum by students around the country to organize school walkouts and marches to honor the victims in that shooting and protest school violence.

At a minimum, we are aware of a student-led national 17-minute school walkout planned [at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 14](#). National organizers are calling for 17 minutes of action/activity on that day to commemorate the 17 lives lost at the high school in Parkland, Florida.

We also recently became aware of a regional student-led effort to have students gather at the State Capitol Building starting to make their voices heard about school safety legislation before the legislative session ends. Planned events such as these are student-led events and not school-sponsored activities.

When students advocate for an issue they feel passionate about, it can be a powerful learning experience. We also recognize that some students may not want to participate in a walkout and would prefer to stay in class. We want to ensure that all students feel safe and respected, no matter what they choose to do.

We want you to know, as parents and community members, how the district will respond if students participate in a student-led walkout on a school day:

- If a walkout occurs on our campus, classes will continue on their normal schedule.
- Student safety is essential. Wherever possible, school administrators are working with the Ridgefield Police Department to ensure a safe place and supervision for those who choose to participate in student-led walkouts.
- We encourage students who choose to participate in walkouts to remain on campus. When students leave campus, it is more challenging to look out for their well-being.
- The planned nationwide and local walkouts are student-led events and not school-sponsored activities. Our primary concern and focus is ensuring student safety when school is in session.

Actions Families Can Take

We encourage you to talk with your student, as is age-appropriate and/or appropriate for your family, about the collective national conversation about school safety and your student's possible participation in any planned student-led walkouts. As with any school-related issues you or your student may feel passionate about, you are always welcome to contact our state or federal legislators. You can identify our state and federal representatives by visiting www.leg.wa.gov and selecting the "Find Your District" (legislative or congressional) link on the left side of the page.

Furthermore, join us for a Safety Night Open House hosted by the Ridgefield School District [from 5:00-7:00 pm on March 14th](#) in the RHS Commons.

Go Spudders!

Christen Palmer
RHS Principal

Dr. Nathan McCann
Superintendent
Ridgefield School District

Our Purpose: Ridgefield School District aspires to be the state's premier district, leveraging strong community partnerships to provide each student personalized learning experiences, opportunities, and skills that ensure success and unlimited possibilities.