

March 9, 2018

Dear Simpson Community:

The recent news regarding Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School has impacted us all as we struggle to make sense of the tragic loss of life. With safety as our top priority, it is imperative we work together in our community to ensure every measure is taken for our staff and students to work and learn in a protected and safe environment.

As mentioned during the February 15th School Board meeting, our school district has been proactive in implementing numerous safety measures to increase the safety of our staff and students. These measures include, but are not limited to:

- Implementation of regularly scheduled code red drills
- All employees have been trained on code red procedures using an award-winning video
- Principals trained by the CCSD Safety and Security Department
- “Buzz In” door entry systems at all elementary and middle schools
- Video cameras throughout schools
- One of the largest school police forces in the nation, serving all CCSD schools
- Our officers are post-certified (same training as CCPD), and fully equipped
- Alert Point Intruder System

Again, the safety of our students and employees has always been, and will continue to be, our number one priority. With this in mind, we cannot support or endorse allowing our students, your children, to participate in walking out of school which could place them into a potentially dangerous situation. As stated on the district website, we want to work with our students to identify an appropriate way to show empathy for Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and its community without interruption of instructional time and without violation of district policies. Of course, parents are able to check their student out of school on any school day to leave campus according to policy.

I have met with our staff to create non-disruptive activities and opportunities for our school community to honor and remember the staff and students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on March 14. We will begin the day with a moment of silence in memory of the 17 students who lost their lives at Stoneman Douglas. Our social studies, language arts, and reading teachers are planning instructional activities for each grade level which may include writing a letter to their state or federal representatives, discussing productive and meaningful ways to express First Amendment rights, making cards we will send to the families and classmates of the victims, writing a poem, and creating a list of 17 different ways to contribute positively to our community or providing 17 acts of kindness.

In addition, our Campus Resource Officer, Nina Daniels, and I will hold a parent meeting on Thursday, March 15, from 6:00-7:00, in the Simpson Theater. I will address the safety procedures we have in place and then allow for parent questions. I hope you will be able to join me.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with our leadership teams as we make a positive difference in our community.

Sincerely,

Ansley K. Daniel