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# Auburn School Department

*"Empowering lifelong learners to succeed in a world yet imagined"*

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March 9, 2018

Dear Auburn Families,

In a continuing effort to keep everyone informed, the Auburn School Department would like to formally address concerns and share our plans related to the nationwide "National School Walkout" that organizers are preparing for March 14, 2018 in response to the recent tragedy in Parkland, Florida. The organizers of the Walkout indicate that the purpose is "to demand Congress pass legislation to keep us safe from gun violence at our schools, on our streets and in our homes and places of worship." We do recognize that we will have students who will be participating in this demonstration.

Administration has met with some students who are planning to take part in the "National Walkout" and also with the Auburn Police Department to ensure that students are safe during this demonstration. We will be communicating with students and staff that we expect students to remain in class and for staff to continue their teaching duties on March 14. In addition, administration and teachers will be following Edward Little High School's policies and procedures related to students "cutting class," which will result in a detention for the first offense. Those students who choose to participate in the Walkout will be expected to return to class unless a parent has given permission for a student to be dismissed for the day. Students at the elementary schools will not be allowed to leave the school buildings.

We anticipate that some students will leave school to take part in the demonstration on school grounds. In order to make sure that demonstrations remain respectful and peaceful, we will have staff assigned to monitor the Walkout areas. The Auburn Police Department will have an increased presence where demonstrations are expected to take place. We will also be limiting access and traffic to our school grounds during the Walkout in order to monitor the safety of our students and staff and minimize any further disruption.

It is important for us to maintain our daily expectations for students and staff, and to recognize that there will be many who will want to have their voices heard during this "National Walkout" event. As always, school safety is a top priority, and we are planning accordingly.

Sincerely,



Katherine Grondin  
Superintendent of Schools