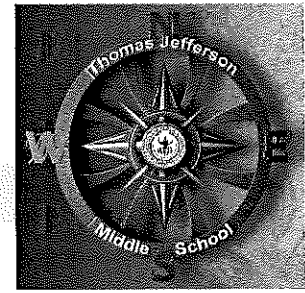


Thomas Jefferson Middle School

3000 NW 119th Street
Vancouver, WA 98685



March 7, 2018

Dear Families,

Following the tragic shooting in a Florida high school on February 14, students around the country are planning walkouts on March 14 to protest school violence. Anticipating that this movement may come to Vancouver schools, we want you to know how we will respond if students participate in a walkout.

As educators, we support the First Amendment rights of our students to express their views on this important topic. When students advocate appropriately for change, it can be a powerful learning experience. We also recognize that some students may not want to participate in a walkout or related activities and may prefer to stay in class. We are committed to ensuring that all students feel safe and respected.

If there are student-led activities, such as a walk-in, during which students would remain safely in the school, administration and staff will plan accordingly. Student-led walk-in activities could include (17 minutes to honor the 17 lives lost in Florida, a letter-writing activity during which students will communicate their concerns to legislators, etc.).

By state law and district policy, students who choose to walk out will receive an unexcused absence. If you want to excuse your child from class to allow her or him to participate, please contact your school office.

As always, the safety of students is our priority. If a walkout should occur at any of our schools, we will assign staff and district resource officers as necessary to provide appropriate supervision during the walkout. District resource officers also will monitor student activity to the best of their ability if students leave campus. The district is communicating with local law enforcement about a coordinated response that helps to ensure the safety of students who may choose to leave campus.

I invite you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about our plans for March 14. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Adams", written over a white background.

Tom Adams
Principal
Thomas Jefferson MS