



EDUCATION CENTER • P.O. BOX 5381 • CINCINNATI, OH 45201-5381 • PH: 513-363-0000 • TDD: 513-363-0124

March 6, 2018

Dear Parents and Families,

In the wake of recent school shootings, students, teachers and community members across the country have been calling for walk-outs and other demonstrations regarding gun violence.

We are aware of two dates that have been circulated as national protest dates: a 17-minute walkout on March 14th in memory of the students who died in the Parkland, Florida shooting, and a community walkout on April 20th.

Part of our job of preparing students to be productive citizens in our world is supporting their ability to discern information and stand up for their beliefs. We must also be mindful of our core work: providing academic environments that support learning for every child.

Our goal at Cincinnati Public Schools is to best support our students' Constitutional rights, while not interfering with other students' ability to learn.

Our principals and school leaders will be working collaboratively with students to find ways that allow them to exercise their rights safely and with minimal classroom disruption.

As parents, guardians and mentors to our children, you have an important role to play in encouraging them to express their beliefs while respecting the beliefs, ideas and safety of other students.

The principal who leads each school community has received guidance from the district on student demonstrations, but also has the authority and flexibility to protect the right of each child to receive a quality education. If you have specific questions about activities at your child's school, please contact the building principal.

Again, our paramount responsibility is to ensure our nearly 37,000 students in CPS have a safe learning environment. Thank you for entrusting your child to our care.

Sincerely,

Laura Mitchell
Superintendent