



Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

208 Bull Street / Savannah, Georgia 31401 / 912.395.5600

2/21/2018

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE TO SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Dear Colleagues,

The tragedy in Parkland, Florida and the loss of life surrounding gun violence in our city and across the nation resonates deeply with all of us. Our staff, students, and parents will all cope in different ways.

We, as school leaders, must be ready to offer guidance and support.

In response to the violence in Broward County, there have been recent discussions of student-led activities, including a planned "school walk out". It is important that we work with our students to support their right of expression in a way that is responsible, safe, and productive. Events that cause distractions to the overall learning environment or create situations that do not support safety and security should be avoided.

As our district often does during difficult times, we stand together. I am reminded of the thousands and thousands of water bottles that were collected during the Flint water crisis in Michigan, and for hurricane victims in Florida and Puerto Rico – communities needed help and many of us responded in a positive, responsible, and organized manner.

Today, our school community continues to process the senseless loss of life that unfolded just last week and in previous weeks in our city and across our country. In the face of these tragedies, we must stand together. Should students seek ways to express their thoughts about laws and/or their support for the faculty, staff, and students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, you may wish to offer guidance that provides meaningful activities and options.

Activities should only be offered for those who choose to participate.

- Offer a writing campaign in letter form where students and staff may provide their sentiments to lawmakers.
- Send letters of support, cards, well wishes to the students, faculty and staff of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Students may choose to write a letter or poem or provide artwork.
- Your school broadcasting club may wish to record a special video message expressing support for the affected families.
- Student Councils may wish to host a roundtable discussion during one of their meetings.
- You may choose to offer a 17 second moment of quiet reflection for those who seek to participate.

Hopefully, you will find these suggestions useful, as they are offered to help guide the need to express emotion in a productive manner while maintaining high quality teaching and learning experiences in a safe and secure environment.

Mission - To ignite a passion for learning and teaching at high levels.

Vision - From school to the world: All students prepared for productive futures



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Should any administrator have additional suggestions, questions or concerns, please contact your Executive Director of School Governance, Mrs. Aretha Rhone-Bush or me.

I appreciate all that you do every day.

Sincerely,

M. Ann Levett, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

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"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"