



## BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Office of the Superintendent

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Dear BPS Community,

March 14 has been designated as a day for students across the nation to honor the lives that were lost in Parkland, Florida, on Feb. 14. With the nation's attention focused on issues of school gun violence, student safety and civic engagement, this is a tragic but teachable moment for our students – and for all of us.

While our policies do not allow us to condone or participate in a walkout, as some have called for, we can offer an affirmative message to your students that we, like they, are grieving and angry about yet one more mass shooting in a school. Our expectation throughout the district is that time is spent on age-appropriate lessons about what constitutes a safe and inclusive learning environment. We encourage students to express their views and we encourage proactive civic engagement on this issue.

We are providing separate and age appropriate guidance for school principals at the elementary and secondary levels regarding their plans for school-wide events on March 14. Observances and educational opportunities will take place at 10 a.m. and last 17 minutes in honor of the 17 students and educators who lost their lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

This teachable moment may take the form of students and staff holding discussions, joining hands in the hallway, or some other activity. Be assured that any planned events will take place under the watchfulness of BPS Security and the Buffalo Police Department. Students will be strongly encouraged to stay inside the school building and return to class once the observance ceremony concludes.

No student or school employee should ever feel unsafe when they walk into any classroom or office in the Buffalo Public Schools. We will continue to take strong, collaborative measures to ensure our schools are safe, welcoming and engaging for everyone.

Thank you for your support.

Dr. Kriner Cash  
Superintendent

Dr. Barbara Nevergold  
Board President

***“Putting Children & Families First to Ensure High Academic Achievement for All”***