

**Educational Service Center 3717 Grandview Drive West**

**University Place, Washington 98466-2138**

(**253) 566-5600**

**Fax (253) 566-5600**

March 9, 2018

Dear Parents of CJH and CHS Students:

As you might know, some high school students - locally and across the country -are planning to participate in a 17-minute walkout on March 14 at 10 AM in response to recent incidents of school violence. We want to provide you with information about the district’s position on student walkouts so you can talk with your student and help them to make good choices.

We are proud of our students and their interest in making our world safer and we respect their rights to free speech. However, we will not be encouraging students to participate in a walkout. We ask that students remain in class and continue with instructional activities on March 14, just as they do every day. We take our responsibility to keep kids safe very seriously. We are also committed to making sure that schools operate in an orderly manner. A student walkout – no matter how just the cause- challenges our ability to achieve these daily goals.

We intend to encourage interested students to express their opinions about school safety issues in other ways. If students are interested in taking action, staff at each school will help identify alternative activities that

are safe, non-disruptive and age-appropriate. Any such activities will be optional and no student will be asked to participate in an action that goes against their beliefs.

We also understand, however, that some students may decide to participate in the national walkout. We are asking school administrators to work with these students to develop a clear, structured plan. Additional staff from CJH, CHS, the district office and other sites will be made available to provide supervision, as needed, so we can ensure student safety on school grounds. If students do choose to walk out, we want to be sure they are aware of the following expectations:

1. **Students will work with administrators in advance to develop a safe, structured plan**
2. **Students may not leave campus**
3. **The class time that is missed will not be excused**
4. **Students may need to make up class work missed during their absence**

Classroom instruction will continue as normal on March 14th. While we will provide on-campus supervision as we always do, any student walkout will not be a district-sponsored activity. If your student decides to participate, please reinforce the time, expected behavior and missed-work expectations.

Thank you for your assistance in helping share these expectations with students. Please don’t hesitate to contact your student’s principal if you have site-based questions about March 14th. You are also welcome to call or email me directly at (253) 566-5600 or [jchamberlin@upsd83.org.](mailto:jchamberlin@upsd83.org)

Sincerely,

Jeff Chamberlin Superintendent