**SAFETY COMMUNICATION SAMPLES AND RESOURCES**

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| **A Message from Camas School**  **District** |
| **A Message About Safety in Camas Schools**  February 15, 2018 Dear CSD Parents  Sadly, yesterday’s mass shooting in Parkland, Florida has brought the issue of school safety again to the forefront of everyone’s minds. This tragedy has prompted parents and community members to contact us to inquire about our schools’ safety measures and emergency preparedness. We are sending you this message to make you aware of our district’s safety program and assure you that we are committed to your student’s safety and wellbeing. This commitment is something we act on every single day, not just in response to incidents like the one at Douglas High School.  As our district’s Superintendent and director of student and staff safety, we approach the responsibility of student safety as school leaders *and* as fathers. We have children in Camas schools and view the safety of all CHS students through the lens of a parent. Our fellow |

# SUBMITTED BY CAMAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**NEXT STEPS:**

We plan to do the following:

1. Meet with CPD and review SRO practices - ensure optimum coverage for our schools
2. Set-up forum with invited community reps from existing committees and include law enforcement. We are hoping to tap into a regional effort with this type of forum. We want to engage community in a structured way.
3. We will be looking to turn the initial forum into some type of district safety committee with varied stakeholder representation to review current standards. Create listening posts associated with larger community to inform this committee. We will use this committee to vet ideas.

**From:** Camas School District <[Doreen.Mckercher@camas.wednet.edu](mailto:Doreen.Mckercher@camas.wednet.edu)>

**Date:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 1:43 PM

**Subject:** A Message About Safety in Camas Schools



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| district staff members do the same. We want to make you aware of the following safety resources and procedures:  School Resource Officer: We are fortunate to have a School Resource Officer (SRO) in our district. This Camas Police Officer is a resource, a deterrent, and a first responder. If you had not already heard, we welcomed a new SRO last month. Officer Tim Fellows, who has been our SRO since 2012, has returned to normal duty. Our new SRO is Officer Jason Langman and he is excited to serve our students and families in this role. Although Officer Langman is based at Camas High School, he monitors and visits all of our schools.  Campus Security Features: In 2014, our schools were remodeled so all visitors must come through one entrance. Video access stations for school visitors were also installed. While exterior entrances/exits are open before and after school, these doors are locked once school begins and they remain locked until school is out. These doors are wired to a centralized lockdown control, which gives our staff the ability to secure our campus in an instant. This system also activates campus-wide communication and instructions.  Additionally, every building is equipped with digital security cameras and a panic button that discretely contacts 9-1-1.  Training and Preparation: CSD schools routinely practice, review, and improve their safety procedures. Building leaders receive monthly training and partner with the Camas Police Department to work through different scenarios so we are ready for any possible emergency. Every campus conducts monthly drills to practice their response to the following situations: Evacuation, Earthquake, Shelter-in-Place, and Internal and External Lockdown.  Communication: Our schools take all threats seriously and do their best to keep our community informed about incidents that happen in our schools.  Ensuring the safety of our students and staff members is a comprehensive commitment. We do much more to support safety in our programs and on our campuses than discussed above. Examples include fire inspections, facility repairs and maintenance, counseling and nursing services, and annual employee safety trainings. We also constantly evaluate our safety program and look for strategies and technology that will make us better prepared and secure. We recognize that our students are essential to this process. This year, we have tried to be proactive by investing in social emotional programming, attempting to ensure that each of our students feels safe at school and that their voice matters.  We want to thank you for taking time to read this message. We also want to thank those of you who reached out to share the concerns we all feel. Feel free to contact us with any additional questions.  Sincerely,  Jeff Snell, Superintendent  Steve Marshall, Director of Educational Resources |
| Thanks!  Doreen McKercher, Communications Director [doreen.mckercher@camas.wednet.edu](mailto:doreen.mckercher@camas.wednet.edu) Camas School District  T: 360-833-5563 | C: 360-901-3325  [Website](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/vnRfXIBKXJyP57zMpTdV9w%7E%7E/AAAAAQA%7E/RgRcZzJoP0QbaHR0cDovL3d3dy5jYW1hcy53ZWRuZXQuZWR1VwdzY2hvb2xtWAQAAAABQgoAAej-hVowKGUIUh5qZWZmcmV5LnNuZWxsQGNhbWFzLndlZG5ldC5lZHU%7E) | [News](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/_2gDr4-w3rfGvmFX8TmhNQ%7E%7E/AAAAAQA%7E/RgRcZzJoP0QhaHR0cDovL3d3dy5jYW1hcy53ZWRuZXQuZWR1L25ld3MvVwdzY2hvb2xtWAQAAAABQgoAAej-hVowKGUIUh5qZWZmcmV5LnNuZWxsQGNhbWFzLndlZG5ldC5lZHU%7E) | [Facebook](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/fK005iiD4ty9PPFOoELXpA%7E%7E/AAAAAQA%7E/RgRcZzJoP0QkaHR0cDovL3d3dy5mYWNlYm9vay5jb20vQ2FtYXNTY2hvb2xzVwdzY2hvb2xtWAQAAAABQgoAAej-hVowKGUIUh5qZWZmcmV5LnNuZWxsQGNhbWFzLndlZG5ldC5lZHU%7E) | [Twitter](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/WAO4HTT0lvgDU4-t-85XWg%7E%7E/AAAAAQA%7E/RgRcZzJoP0QfaHR0cDovL3R3aXR0ZXIuY29tL0NhbWFzU2Nob29sc1cHc2Nob29sbVgEAAAAAUIKAAHo_oVaMChlCFIeamVmZnJleS5zbmVsbEBjYW1hcy53ZWRuZXQuZWR1)  This e-mail, related attachments, and any responses may be subject to public disclosure under state law. |

# SHARED BY CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tim, you probably already have this but it contains some good resources. Jim

---------- Forwarded message ----------

From: **Dan Domenech** <[communications@aasa.org](mailto:communications@aasa.org)> Date: Fri, Feb 23, 2018 at 1:59 PM

Subject: Supporting Superintendents, Supporting Students: Resources For Schools And Gun Safety Discussions And Advocacy

To: James <[jmabbott@crschools.org](mailto:jmabbott@crschools.org)>

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| Dear Colleague,  The deaths and injuries because of the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman High School are a cruel reminder that despite 150 school shootings and 250 deaths since |

Columbine, little has been done to address the school safety, mental health, and gun safety policies that must be adopted to make our schools safe again.

As our nation heals from yet another school shooting, we are sharing a [set of resources](http://listserver.aasa.org/t/143318/18053355/16774/32/) to help superintendents help their students. The resources include AASA’s position paper on school safety; guidance to local districts on how to communicate with staff, students and the community about the event and the related days of action; AASA’s engagement in the National Day of Action on April 20; and a list of programs/activities districts can adopt and implement on the day of action.

The voices of the students, parents and school personnel that are rising throughout our nation may well lead to the changes that we propose and endorse, and this set of resources is designed to support school superintendents across the country as they work with their schools and communities to ensure our schools are once again the safest place for our children.

Sincerely,



Dan Domenech Executive Director

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**ABOUT THIS MESSAGE**

To update your e-mail address or other contact information, please call 703-875-0748, e-mail [membership@aasa.org,](mailto:membership@aasa.org) fax 703-841-1542, or log on to the [AASA membership website.](http://listserver.aasa.org/t/143318/18053355/13518/33/)

Copyright AASA, [1615 Duke Street, Alexandria VA](https://maps.google.com/?q=1615%2BDuke%2BStreet%2C%2BAlexandria%2BVA&amp;entry=gmail&amp;source=g) 22214; 702-875-0748.

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Jim Mabbott Superintendent

Castle Rock School District 600 Huntington Ave. S Castle Rock, WA 98611 (360) 501-2940

# SUBMITTED BY EVERGREEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Tim,

Here are the talking points I just distributed to our building administrators. I believe our position follows the WASA advice they just sent out.

# Talking Points re: student-led protest March 14 and April 20

* In accordance with Board Results policy, we want all students to understand how to appropriately advocate for change. We as educators should utilize current events as a learning opportunity for our students. We support our students in efforts to stand up for what they believe in and should emphasize our role in guiding them through the process of advocacy.
* In accordance with district policy, state and federal law, students have the right to assemble and peacefully exercise their free speech rights in common areas before and after school hours so long as they do not create a significant disruption to the educational environment. However, this does not apply during school hours.
* This isn’t a school or district sponsored event. This is a student-led event.
* Our staff is working with students to make sure ALL feel supported. We will let students know it is ok to stay at school and not leave. Everyone should make their own choices and we will encouraging parents to talk with their child about their plans for the day.
* For students who may choose to walkout/boycott, part of our role is to ensure they are aware that there are consequences for any action. Though a resulting absence may be unexcused, we try not to be punitive in our response to students missing class.
* Safety is key, so we are reminding students to be careful in their actions.
* School and classes are operating on a normal schedule, and we expect staff and students to be engaged in teaching and learning. We understand that staff may request use of personal leave time to participate in the protest, however, class coverage is of utmost importance. We expect our staff to support all students – those who participate in the protest as well as those who do not.
* Staff use of personal leave must comply with applicable employee contracts.

John Steach

# SHARED BY SKAMANIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Here is an excellent letter from the Hood River Superintendent about student safety. Ralph

---------- Forwarded message ---------- Date: Sun, Feb 25, 2018 at 2:49 PM Subject: HR County School Super letter

To: Ralph Pruitt <[rpruitt@skamania.k12.wa.us](mailto:rpruitt@skamania.k12.wa.us)> FYI

[Superintendent's Office / Message from Superintendent Goldman on Student Safety - February](https://www.hoodriver.k12.or.us/Page/8615) [2018](https://www.hoodriver.k12.or.us/Page/8615)

**Superintendent's Office / Message from Superintendent Goldman on Student...**

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*Ralph H. Pruitt, Ed.D.* Superintendent/Principal Skamania School District 2 122 Butler Loop Rd.

# SUBMITTED BY VANCOUVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

>>> VPS Communications <[do\_not\_reply@vansd.org](mailto:do_not_reply@vansd.org)> 2/23/2018 8:03 AM >>> Dear Vancouver families,

We are deeply affected and saddened by the recent tragedy at the Parkland, Florida, high school. All of us—both children and adults—find it difficult to comprehend such a catastrophic event.

I want to reassure you that we take school safety very seriously at your child’s school and in all Vancouver schools. We are vigilant and proactive when it comes to our children's safety and have clear plans and procedures to deal with threats and other emergency situations. VPS employs professionally trained security personnel who have a presence at all schools.

We also partner with the Clark County Sheriff’s Office and the Vancouver Police Department to place commissioned law enforcement officers at each of our comprehensive high schools. These officers are on call to support all schools in the district. We meet regularly with local law enforcement agencies to review and improve our safety protocols.

Elementary and middle schools have secure electronic entry systems. At high schools, district resource officers, or DROs, help monitor activities and foot traffic inside schools and around school campuses.

Our schools practice approximately 18 safety drills per year, covering emergency procedures for fires, earthquakes and lockdowns. Our staff members complete training for “Run, Hide, Fight,” a strategy endorsed by law enforcement for responding to active shooter situations. VPS principals, associate principals and other administrators participate in the annual Safety Summit, a workshop for all districts in the region on various topics of safety and security.

Providing safe and supportive schools is a district priority. We work hard every day to maintain a respectful and nurturing environment free from bullying and harassment. Teachers and staff members strive to know every child by name and need, and we assist students and families when they experience difficult situations. We are committed to providing young people with social-emotional support. VPS invests more resources in counseling staff than many other districts, and we partner with mental health professionals to provide necessary help to our students and families.

We encourage you to help us keep our schools safe and prepare for emergency situations:

* Report any potential threats. If your child sees something that may be a threat at school or online, including on social media, please report it to your school principal or law enforcement. You also can make incident reports anonymously on the district’s webpage.
* Make sure that your school has up-to-date contact information on file in case we need to notify you about an emergency situation.

Our school support and administrative staff are available to respond to children's concerns and needs as necessary and appropriate. Please do not hesitate to contact your principal if you have any questions or if we can provide any assistance.

Sincerely,

Steven Webb Superintendent Vancouver Public Schools

# SUBMITTED BY WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 27, 2018

Dear Washougal Families,

The tragedy in Parkland, Florida has again brought national attention to the topic of school safety. I want to reassure you that in the Washougal School District we take the safety of our students and staff very seriously. We take a proactive approach to keeping our students safe and have clear plans and procedures in place. Monthly emergency preparedness drills take place in every school, covering emergency procedures for fire, earthquake, and lockdown. In addition, our administrators join educators in our region to participate in the annual Safety Summit, which addresses various topics for safety and security in schools with law enforcement and safety personnel sharing best practices.

In partnership with the Washougal Police Department, we have a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Washougal High School who is on call to support all schools in the district. We also work closely with the Clark County Sheriff’s Office and Skamania County Sheriff’s Office to ensure that we have law enforcement support services provided to each of our schools in the event of an emergency. Thanks to voters who approved the recent capital facilities bond, entrances at every school are safer with secure double entry electronic vestibules requiring visitors to check in with office staff before gaining entry. Additionally, we have centralized lockdown controls in place at each school.

School safety is a topic we address every day, not just in response to incidents like the one in Florida. Examples include fire inspections, facility repairs and maintenance, counseling and nursing services, and safety training for staff.

**What you can do:**

We encourage you to help us keep our schools safe and prepare for emergency situations:

* + Report any potential threats. If your child sees something that may be a threat at school or online, including on social media, please report it to your school principal or law enforcement.
  + Parents and staff can help children feel safe by establishing a sense of normalcy and security, and talking with them about their fears. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) recommends the following strategies:
    - Reassure children that they are safe.
    - Make time to talk.
    - Keep your explanations developmentally appropriate.
    - Review safety procedures.
    - Observe children’s emotional state.
    - Limit television viewing of these events.
    - Maintain a normal routine.

In Washougal, we are fortunate to have a strong sense of community where the well-being of others is a vital part of a healthy and supportive environment. Providing a safe and supportive school environment is an important part of this. We work hard to maintain a respectful and nurturing learning environment that is free from bullying and harassment.

Our school staff is available to respond to children’s concerns and needs as necessary and appropriate. Please do not hesitate to contact your principal if you have any questions or concerns about the safety of Washougal students.

Sincerely,

Mike Stromme, Ed.D. Superintendent

# SHARED BY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT 189

Email #1 from Bellingham – this was sent out collectively by the high school principals after they became aware of the walkouts.

**Larry Francois, Superintendent** Northwest Educational Service District 189 1601 R Avenue

Anacortes, WA 98221

**From:** Baker, Greg [<mailto:Greg.Baker@bellinghamschools.org>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018 1:29 PM

**To:** Larry Francois <[lfrancois@nwesd.org](mailto:lfrancois@nwesd.org)>

**Subject:** Fwd: Students Plan Protest for Wednesday, Feb. 21

## A Joint Message from Bellingham, Options, Sehome and Squalicum Principals

Dear High School Students and Families,

It has come to our attention that some students from all four of our local high schools (Bellingham, Options, Sehome and Squalicum) are planning to walk out of class at 11:22 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, Feb. 21 to gather in their respective schools to honor those who died in the school shooting last week in Parkland, Florida. Some students are then planning to leave campus to attend a rally at Bellingham City Hall to protest school violence. Other students may return to class, while others may choose not to participate in either event.

We are proud that student representatives from all four high schools are collaborating together and taking action for something they believe in. This is a great example of The Bellingham Promise’s One Schoolhouse Approach in action. It’s also a good lesson in democracy and the right to have a voice in government. Students feeling passion and advocacy about an issue can be a powerful learning experience. Students are spreading the word about this event through social media and fliers.

That said, we want to ensure that ALL students feel safe and respected no matter what they choose to do. School and classes will be operating on our normal schedule. Some parents may decide to excuse students from school to participate in the off-campus protest.

We encourage you to talk with your child about the protest and their participation. If your child plans to attend the event at city hall, please discuss how they will be getting there (and if necessary, what transportation they will be using). Our first priority is to keep all of our students safe, and when students get into cars and leave campus, it is more challenging to look out for their well-being. Bellingham Police are expected to be at city hall to help students peacefully protest.

Since the school shooting last week, many student-led events are being planned across the state and country and may occur in the coming weeks and months. We will continue to keep you posted on any other local events that may impact the school day.

Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you have any questions, Linda Wise Miller, Bellingham Principal

Byron Gerard, Options Principal Michelle Kuss-Cybula, Sehome Principal

James Everett, Squalicum Principal

Bellingham Public Schools would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Bellingham Public Schools directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/_kgx8lcEGUsGS8g6QXczng%7E%7E/AAAAAQA%7E/RgRcbcK3P0RJaHR0cHM6Ly9nby5zY2hvb2xtZXNzZW5nZXIuY29tLyMvdW5zdWJzY3JpYmUvMjUyNi9iR2x6WVVCc2FYTmhhVzExY3k1amIyMFcHc2Nob29sbVgEAAAAAUIKAAE3j4xavX1GP1IRbGlzYUBsaXNhaW11cy5jb20%7E) SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.

Email #2 from Bellingham

**From:** Berner, Charisse <[Charisse.Berner@bellinghamschools.org](mailto:Charisse.Berner@bellinghamschools.org)>

**Sent:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 9:03:47 AM

**Subject:** Dr. Baker's message regarding student protest

<https://bellinghamschools.org/news/reflections-today-message-superintendent-greg-baker/>

[Reflections on Today: A Message from Superintendent Greg](https://bellinghamschools.org/news/reflections-today-message-superintendent-greg-baker/) [Baker - Bellingham Public Schools](https://bellinghamschools.org/news/reflections-today-message-superintendent-greg-baker/)

bellinghamschools.org

Dear Students, Staff and Families, After monitoring today’s events, I’d like to share a few thoughts and reflections. Over the last few hours and days I have heard and spoken to many people: students, staff, administrators, parents, guardians, grandparents and community members. All of them were passionate and had somewhat different perspectives. I heard from a grandfather … Read more »

# DISTRIBUTED BY WASA

Good Morning,

I’m sure you are aware of the national planned days of action related to the recent tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The first event is being planned for March 14th which marks the one-month anniversary of that shooting. The second is planned for April 20th which marks the 19-year anniversary of the Columbine shootings. Many of you are wondering how to respond if your students and/or teachers plan to participate in these or other events. In the news today, there’s an example of a school district that plans to suspend any students that participate. On the other end of the continuum, there are probably schools that are facilitating and even planning to join in these events.

At today’s WASA Legal Issues Conference, Chris Burton suggested that district leaders should consistently apply their district policies and handbook rules, regardless of the purpose of any such walkout. You place yourself in potentially legal and/or political difficulty if you begin supporting some actions and oppose others. Given those comments, you should review district policies and you may want to consult your own legal counsel before deciding how to respond to these events.

AASA has an excellent set of resources on this topic available at the following link: [http://www.aasa.org/policy-blogs.aspx?id=42161&blogid=84002.](http://www.aasa.org/policy-blogs.aspx?id=42161&amp;blogid=84002) A copy of that page is attached, but the links in that document don’t appear to work. Hopefully, these resources will assist you in developing your district response to these events.

I would also encourage you to discuss your plan with the superintendents in your region and provide parent communication about that plan at least a week in advance of these key days of action.

As always, we at WASA are here to support you as you wrestle with these and other challenging leadership issues.

## Bill

Dr. Bill Keim

Executive Director | WASA | 825 Fifth Avenue SE, Olympia 98501

*tel* 360.489.3651 | *fax* 360.352.6873 | [bkeim@wasa-oly.org](mailto:bkeim@wasa-oly.org)| [wasa-oly.org](http://www.wasa-oly.org/)