



## NORTHBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT 27

Office of the Superintendent  
David J. Kroeze, Ph.D.

Board of Education  
Mrs. Helen Melnick, President  
Mrs. Laurie Garber-Amram, Vice President  
Mr. Frank Andreou  
Mrs. Melissa Copeland  
Mr. Ed Feld  
Mr. Alex Frum  
Mr. Brian Paich

March 12, 2018

Dear District 27 Parents and Guardian,

I am writing to you today because I know that there are planned national events on March 14<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup>, and April 20<sup>th</sup> in response to the Parkland, Florida tragedy. March 14<sup>th</sup> is a call from concerned individuals in Parkland, Florida to stand together to remember those who were senselessly killed and to speak out about gun violence. Specifically, this event is promoted as a “Walkout”.

District 27 Administration has been in thoughtful conversation about this day. In addition, we have been in conversation with the Northbrook Police Department to help inform our approach, which is rooted in honoring student voice but doing so in the safest way possible. Please know that above all, safety and security of our students and staff will remain our priority. As a result, we will not be permitting any students or staff to leave the building for the walkout. We believe that this would cause an unnecessary risk to everyone, and the Northbrook Police Department is in agreement with us. At the same time, we want to honor student voice, particularly at Wood Oaks, where advocacy is embedded in our PBIS program (ROAR) and our curriculum.

With these thoughts in mind, our plan includes in the following:

- For the K-5 level, we recognize that many students may be completely unaware of the school shootings and walkouts. Because these are our youngest learners, who most likely will find the topic terribly frightening, we do not support engaging in any discussions about a school movement or action. This conversation is best left to individual families. We will be operating the day as we do every other day. Shabonee will be placing an emphasis on kindness that day as part of the PBIS process.
- Teachers (at all grade levels) will remain in their classrooms and continue with the teaching and learning process.

- At Wood Oaks, Mr. McElligott and Mrs. Beake are working together with our student leaders who are planning an age-appropriate activity in place of the national student walkout movement.
- If parents want to remove their children from school to engage in the national walkout event, they are asked to enter the office and sign them out as they would for any other personal business.

If you have any concerns about this plan, please feel free to contact your school principal. I know that the principals have already sent out some information to you. Our primary concern is safety and maintaining a productive learning environment. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and cooperation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Kroeze". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'K'.

David J. Kroeze, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools