



March 13, 2018

Good Morning Rio Norte Parents and Students,

Rio Norte has been deeply saddened by the loss of life at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School last month. Rio Norte and the Hart District have reviewed safety procedures to improve student safety. Although Rio Norte is not promoting the event, we are aware that students around the country may be participating in a 17 minute National School Walkout on March 14 at 10 a.m.

While Rio Norte and the Hart District do not take a position in the political debate on gun control, we support students' right to free speech in an appropriate manner. Our student Safe School Ambassador Club has planned a balloon releasing activity for interested students during brunch at 9:15 a.m. to show support for the students from Parkland, FL. This activity allows interested students the opportunity to participate without missing instruction. Any student who walks out of class at 10 a.m. must remain in the outdoor quad, to ensure supervision and safety. Some teachers may take the opportunity to discuss civic engagement in class during this teachable moment.

At Rio Norte we aim to be proactive, ensure student safety, and minimize disruptions to student learning. We want students to feel safe and to respect each other, regardless of differing opinions, actions, and beliefs.

Thank you,

*Audrey Asplund*

Principal, Rio Norte Junior High School