



FLORENCE M. GAUDINEER MIDDLE SCHOOL
75 SOUTH SPRINGFIELD AVENUE
SPRINGFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07081
(973) 376-1025

Timothy P. Kielty
Principal

Matthew Lynch
School Supervisor

March 13, 2018

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Over the past weeks, I have been meeting with students to address the tragedy in Florida and ways to show our support for their community. The discussions centered mostly on the demonstrations planned for March 14. After careful consideration of all points of view, I explained the administration has a legal responsibility to ensure all students are safe during this day and every school day. In order to maintain a safe and secure environment, students must adhere to the established code of conduct. Due to our legal responsibility, as well as the safety and security concerns for all, students are expected to report to school on 7:40am on March 14th and remain in the building until 2:30pm. Students will be expected to adhere to the student Code of Conduct and follow the direction of the Administration and Faculty.

Keeping the student's safety and security as a top priority, we will provide a space inside the building to conduct appropriate activities on March 14th. The activities will be geared towards showing support for the Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School community and to show solidarity around the desire for safe schools. As students are not required to participate in the activities, students who desire can remain in their classrooms. In order to maintain the focus on honoring the 17 individuals who lost their lives on February 14th, students should maintain proper respect for planned school activities and respect all points of view during this time.

We have been, and will continue to be, in communication with the Springfield Police Department, regarding the security measures as necessary to keep students safe on March 14th. Please be advised that unannounced visitors and parent drop off of forgotten items will not be allowed during the day. Only visitors with appointments will be allowed to enter the building for the duration of the day.

If your child is experiencing any difficulties, emotionally or socially, please do not hesitate to direct them to reach out to their assigned school counselor. It is understood how recent events have increased feelings of anxiety for students and our counseling staff is here to provide assistance.

I encourage all parents to view the recorded Board of Education meeting held on February, 26, 2018 and March 5, 2018 when this topic was addressed. These meetings can be viewed at: <http://www.springfieldschools.com/content/626>

I thank you for your anticipated cooperation and support as we collaboratively work to promote a safe and secure school environment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Mr. Timothy Kielty