

Dear Kyrene Families:

The national landscape has brought forward critical issues that focus on school safety, and students across the nation are identifying opportunities to share their voice in the conversation. In response to interest in student walkout demonstrations, we are requesting family support for student attendance in the weeks ahead.

Prior to spring break, each of our middle schools experienced a day in which some students walked on campus for a period of time to honor the lives lost in Parkland, Florida. In this venue, students participated in a manner that was respectful and limited in duration. We appreciated theirs and our teachers'™ support of continued learning throughout the day. We have recently learned, however, that schools across the nation have identified additional dates, specifically April 20 for walks on/off campus in response to school safety.

Considering the possibility of student walkouts, we request that parents talk with their children and provide alternate times in which they can engage in non-school related activities that are important to them. We want to ensure a safe and non-disruptive learning environment for all of our children and we appreciate your support, knowing that any missed time in class is a lost opportunity to learn. To ensure family understanding, we want parents to be aware that students who miss class due to this type of activity will be marked unexcused, and will be disciplined in alignment with board policies.

Our teachers have high expectations for students and themselves. They are dedicated to the social, emotional and academic development of each child. We appreciate family support in student attendance so that learning is not impacted.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school's principal.

Sincerely,

Jan Vesely, Ed.D.
Superintendent