



Pearl River School District

135 West Crooked Hill Road
Pearl River, New York 10965
www.pearlriver.org
Phone: 845-620-3920 Fax: 845-620-3927
pochintestam@pearlriver.org



Marco F. Pochintesta
Superintendent of Schools

March 9, 2017

Dear Parents:

I am writing to you to provide information about the National School Walkout Day on March 14th.

I know that we all share in the sadness over the 17 students and adults, whose lives were taken in the horrific tragedy that occurred in Parkland, Florida. Schools and school districts across the Nation once again turn their thoughts to all aspects of the tragedy and on how we might keep our schools safe and end this cycle of violence. The national conversation has included a renewed discussion of safety measures and an idea of a voluntary, 17 minute school walkout on March 14th has also emerged.

The Pearl River School District, together with other Rockland County schools, will provide students the opportunity to express their opinions. Our aim will be to provide a safe and orderly environment for all students, those who choose to participate, as well as any who choose not to. To this end, we have been in regular communication with the Orangetown Police Department for the purposes of coordinating safety details for March 14th, including designated campus locations where participating students may safely assemble. Please also be aware that campuses will be closed shortly before 10:00 a.m. and remain closed until the conclusion of the proposed student walkout. This measure is taken for safety purposes.

While we understand that the sentiments of sadness and frustration with the enduring tragedies of repeated school shootings are universal, the mature themes associated with this event suggest a different approach for students at our elementary schools. Because of this understanding, they will not have the opportunity to participate in the walkout.

It is likely that news of the day's events will reach elementary age students. If elementary parents need support on how to communicate with their children on this topic, please contact your building principal.

Mr. Murphy and Ms. Paese, PRHS and PRMS school principals, will provide additional information on Monday, March 12, 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marco F. Pochintesta".

Superintendent of Schools