

Dear East Lansing High School parents,

The ELHS Black Student Union and Students for Gender Equality, in conjunction with students across the country, are sponsoring a Walk Out in response to school violence that has been prevalent in our country. The Walk Out will occur from 10 – 10:17 a.m. This event allows students to honor the victims of the recent school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida and to exercise their freedom of speech by expressing their concerns regarding school safety within a safe environment.

Student leaders representing various clubs have a pre-approved plan in place that encompasses the result of a meeting with the high school administration, superintendent, representatives from the East Lansing Police Department and high school staff, so that everyone at East Lansing High School can be assured that this event will be a positive and productive experience for the students and staff.

On February 26, 2018, the East Lansing Board of Education passed a resolution that included support for the nation-wide 17 minute Student Walk Out that will occur on Wednesday, March 14. (See Resolution excerpt below)

“Be it further resolved that the East Lansing Board of Education supports any appropriate actions taken by East Lansing students, teachers, school administrators, parents and allies in support of the intent of the East Lansing Walk-out “...calling for students, teachers, school administrators, parents and allies to take part in a National School Walkout for 17 minutes at 10am across every time zone on March 14, 2018 to protest Congress’ inaction to do more than tweet thoughts and prayers in response to the gun violence plaguing our schools and neighborhoods....”² by recognizing and supporting any action our school community members might take to support these 17 minutes on March 14.”

We will follow an EXCEL schedule on March 14 and have structured this time frame so the impact on instructional time is minimized. Our staff will inform students that they need to report to their 3rd period class after 2nd period passing time prior to going outside to participate in the activity. To ensure our staff is supportive of students who do not wish to participate in the activity, various classrooms and the Media Center will be attended by teachers so these students will have the ability to engage in their normal EXCEL experience.

In addition to staff and administrators, The East Lansing Police Department will be present during the event to support our students.

Sincerely,
Andrew Wells, Principal