



Southern Middle School

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Lusby, Maryland 20657
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April 18, 2018

Parents

We are aware that some students across the nation and perhaps in Calvert County are planning a school walkout on Friday, April 20, 2018, to protest school violence. This event is being promoted nationally on the anniversary of the Columbine High School Shooting of 1999. The organizers encourage students to walkout at 10am and stay out for the remainder of the school day.

On March 14 we supported those students who wanted to make a statement in support of the 17 students and staff who died at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School by giving them a safe place for their 17-minute memorial.

Our Governor, the Maryland General Assembly, the Calvert County Board of Commissioners and the Calvert County Board of Education have all taken steps and dedicated funds to make our schools safer than ever before. They have listened, and they have taken action.

Our expectation of students is that April 20, 2018 will be a normal school day in which students will remain in class and focus on their studies. We want parents to understand that any student who walks out will be absent unexcused. Students who walk out will be leaving the safety of their school and the supervision of the school administration. They will be expected to leave the campus. Students who disrupt the education of those who remain in school will be dealt with in accordance with our Student Code of Conduct.

We encourage you to talk to your child(ren) about how they may be feeling about this topic and additional ways in which they can express their opinions. Our hope is that students have recognized the changes that are underway at the state and local levels and understand that their safety and the safety of future students in our school system continues to be of utmost importance.

Mandy M. Blackmon
Principal
Southern Middle School