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March 12, 2018

Dear Etiwanda Parents and Guardians,

The recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida has stimulated conversations, both locally and nationally, regarding the importance of school safety. In an effort to keep you informed, this correspondence offers information regarding the March 14, 2018 national movement to promote school walkouts in support of Parkland, Florida and the corresponding emphasis to raise awareness regarding school safety concerns.

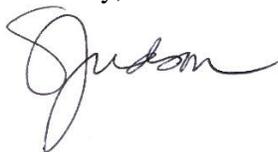
We understand that students may have strong feelings and emotions regarding this critical issue and also recognize the rights of students to express their beliefs. It is a great learning experience for students to engage in addressing difficult issues and we want to encourage them to express their thoughts and emotions. At the same time, great care must be taken by our school staff to ensure the orderly operation of the school is not disrupted and the physical safety of students is not threatened.

On Wednesday, March 14, 2018, middle schools will provide students with on-campus opportunities to express their opinions, concerns and emotions by offering a variety of age-appropriate educational activities while also maintaining a safe and productive learning environment. Campus activities will focus on valuing others and offering messages of kindness to the families and students affected by the Florida tragedy. Elementary schools will have age-appropriate discussions focusing on maintaining a caring school community, the importance of speaking up when students see something that worries them, and school safety procedures.

Our schools will have additional student supervision on campus during the school day as well, to assist in monitoring the safety of our students. We also encourage parents/guardians to speak to their students about respecting others' viewpoints and the responsibilities associated with participating in activities that may occur.

We are fortunate to have such wonderful and caring students, parents, and employees in Etiwanda who are concerned about events that arise in our country. While we want to support our students as they find ways to ensure their voice is heard, we also must do our part to ensure their safety while they are at school. Please reinforce with your student the importance of remaining on campus and expressing opinions in a safe and productive manner.

Sincerely,



Shawn Judson, Ed.D.
Superintendent