

# Community Consolidated School District 46 Lake County, Illinois



*The mission of School District 46 is to pursue excellence to shape the future.*

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565 Frederick Road • Grayslake • IL • 60030 • Tel: 847.223.3650 • Fax: 847.223.3695

February 20, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please know that there is a national social media movement underway for students and staff to protest the most recent school violence by walking out of schools for seventeen minutes to represent one minute for every life lost in the Florida school tragedy. The first of these walk-outs is scheduled for tomorrow at noon. Two more are being planned for 10 a.m. on March 14<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup>. This movement is especially gaining momentum at high schools across the country.

While our hearts and prayers go out to the victims and families of this senseless tragedy, **all Community Consolidated School District 46 students and staff will remain in school.** We will not be participating in these events.

We remain concerned about our children's mental and physical safety. Elementary aged children are not equipped to fully process and understand such events and participation could possibly lead to an increased sense of fear and helplessness. Likewise, it would be impossible to supervise and adequately protect our students from potential harm. Our schools must remain safe, non-political and focused on learning.

The *American School Counselor Association* recommends that parents and adults:

- Listen to children's fears and concerns
- Limit exposure to television and social media
- Reassure children that the world is a good place, but there are people who do bad things
- Keep routines as normal and predictable as possible – this includes attending school
- Remind children that we have drills and procedures in place to keep them safe

If your child has voiced particular concern and seems troubled, please reach out to your child's teacher and school social worker for support. You can also find more age appropriate resources for responding to violence and tragedy at <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collections/teaching-content/resources-responding-violence-and-tragedy/>

I want to assure you that the safety of our students and staff is our top priority and that our schools have comprehensive crisis plans in place to guide us through a variety of emergency situations should the need arise. These plans are reviewed annually and updated when needed. We also hold crisis drills with the students each year so they know what to do in case of an emergency.

Yours in education,

Ellen Correll  
Superintendent