

Division of Academics



Dear KCPS parent,

As you may know, many students across the nation are planning to protest gun violence in the form of a national walk out on Wednesday, March 14. Student-initiated demonstrations have occurred across the country since the Feb. 14 school shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

As a school system, we support our students' right to protest peacefully and have been made aware of some students planning to do so. We are communicating with these students on ways we can best support their initiative in a safe environment on campus. We will ensure that during the 10:00-10:17 a.m. protest time on March 14, students will be supervised. Students must remain on campus during this protest, unless protocols for early school departure are followed and the student is signed out by a parent.

Please know that all of us in Kansas City Public Schools truly understand the concern that many of you and your children are feeling when it comes to school safety and security. We do invest a lot of time, effort and resources into making sure that our students can learn in nurturing environments that are free from any threat of violence. All of our staff regularly receive high-quality training to respond to active shooter situations. Our schools regularly perform drills. We have one of the best school system security teams in the nation. All of our buildings have secured entrances. Plus, every time one of these tragedies occurs, we take a close look to see if there are any more improvements we can make.

We anticipate that the March 14 walk out will be a good opportunity for students and family members to express their feelings and perspectives and to draw strength and hope from each other. Please help us encourage our students to be safe, responsible and considerate during this event.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marla Sheppard, Deputy Superintendent