Huntingdon Area School District 

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Travis R. Lee,

Secondary Principal

**Huntingdon Area Middle School**   **Huntingdon Area High School**

   Mr. Zachary R. Treece, Assistant Principal         Mr. Nicholas A. Payne, Assistant Principal

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March 14, 2018

Good morning Parents and Guardians,

In the newsletter distributed over the weekend, the school district shared plans for how we would be honoring the National School Walkout event.  Today learners heard a message during the morning announcements, and at 10:00 am held a moment of silence, followed by a message. Those messages are included at the end of this letter.

We did have learners that left the building during the 10:00 am timeframe as part of the National event.  Though not publicized, the school had procedures in place for learners to follow if they made the decision to walk out of school, and learners do not have consequences for their participation based upon following the procedures communicated to them.  We were also fortunate to have a local law enforcement presence during the event to enhance safety.

I want to let you know that learners that participated were very respectful, and returned to class promptly after the event.  High school learners held meaningful discussions about issues regarding school safety and mental health awareness, and middle school learners organized themselves into 17 lines to honor the victims of the February 14th tragedy.

We fully recognize the need to support learners having their voices heard, especially when doing so in a peaceful and constructive manner.  The school will continue to work with learners to help them plan meaningful events around issues that are important to them.

Thank you,

Travis R. Lee,

Secondary Principal

**Morning Announcements Message**

Good morning learners and staff members,

Today at 10:00 am there is a National School Walkout Day scheduled across the country to promote awareness around school and gun safety issues.  This walkout is in response to the recent school shooting tragedy that took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on February 14.

At Huntingdon Area High School and Middle School, we will be participating to raise awareness about the importance of school safety by honoring the victims of this tragic event with a moment of silence at 10:00 am.  The moment of silence will last for 17 seconds, a second to reflect upon each of the lives lost during this tragic February 14th event.

After the moment of silence, we will recognize those that perished by reading their names, and a brief message.

As learners, one piece of information that I want to share is that one of the best ways to make your voice heard is by being proactive and taking actions in a constructive way, based upon whatever viewpoints or beliefs that you may have.  As schools across the country see participation in today’s event in different ways, I ask that you make it a point to reach out to others, perhaps to a peer that is quiet to ask them how they are doing, to a teacher or staff member and thank them for their work with you, or to speak with someone that has a different perspective or outlook on life, and learn from them. These actions are examples of our BEARCAT Expectation for “Caring About the Team,” and these acts of kindness can truly make a difference in a person’s day or life.

Thank you, and enjoy your day.

**Announcement During Moment of Silence**

Learners and staff members, at this time, please rise for a 17 second moment of silence.

**Moment of Silence**

Please remain standing to honor those that lost their lives a month ago as I read their names.

14 Learners:  Alyssa Alhadeff, Martin Duque Anguiano, Nicholas Dworet, Jaime Guttenberg, Luke Hoyer, Cara Loughran, Gina Montalto, Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Alex Schachter, Carmen Schentrup, Peter Wang

3 Teachers:  Scott Beigel, Aaron Feis, Chris Hixon (Athletic Director)

Thank you, you may be seated.

Please remember our previous school safety discussion, and reflect upon the importance of our safety procedures and the steps that we need to take to ensure our own and others’ safety.  Also think about this morning’s message, and how we can take steps to “Care About the Team.” The school is looking at ways to increase awareness, and to enhance learner voice, around school safety issues.  If you would like to be a part of this process, please sign-up in the office.

Thanks, and have a great day.