

# TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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<http://tullyschools.org>

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Pre-K-6 Principal

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7-12 Assistant Principal

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School Business Administrator

CRISTY BOBBETT  
Dir.Special Ed./Asst. Pre-K-6 Principal

March 12, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding an assembly at our JSHS, for students in grades 7-12. Mrs. Murphy, our JSHS Principal, has been working with members of our student government, and their advisors, to plan this assembly. We are holding this assembly for three reasons. First, we are doing so in order to recognize and honor the lives lost during the school shooting on February 14<sup>th</sup>, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Second, we are holding this assembly because March 14<sup>th</sup> offers us an important teachable moment. The events in Parkland, Florida on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> have sparked a passionate national debate over school safety and gun control. As a school district, we are neutral in this broad political debate. As educators, however, we have an obligation to teach our students how to engage productively in civil discourse, and how to engage productively in the local, state, and national political process. For this reason, most of the time during this assembly will be spent working with our 7-12 students, to help them better understanding how to engage in civil discourse, and how to engage in the local, state, and national political process.

Third, we are holding this assembly because we do not want our students walking out of school on March 14<sup>th</sup>, as a part of what is being promoted as a National Day of Protest. We do not want this happening for two reasons. First, we are concerned about student safety; it seems unsafe to broadcast publicly the time and place that our students will be outside, in an open, exposed area, given the passion of this on-going debate. Second, as a school district, if we condoned this upcoming walkout, we would be encouraging students to violate our Code of Conduct. We do not want to do this. If any students do decide to walk out of school on March 14<sup>th</sup>, they will be doing so without the district's permission, and as a result may be subject to disciplinary consequences per our Code of Conduct.

We did not think it was age appropriate to hold a similar assembly at our elementary school. We anticipate that March 14<sup>th</sup> will be a typical day for our elementary school students.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter please call Mr. Kupiec (315-696-6213), Mrs. Murphy (315-696-6235), or me (315-696-6204).

Sincerely,



Robert J. Hughes  
Superintendent of Schools