

# Nazareth Area High School

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Alan Davis, Principal  
Rusty Amato, Assistant Principal  
Amy Tashner, Assistant Principal

March 1, 2018

Dear Parents / Students / Faculty / School Community,

The Nazareth Area School District is aware of the possibility of national protests and walkouts by students as a result of what occurred at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on February 14. As a district, we do not endorse one political view over another. However, we do endorse student engagement, civic participation, and civil discourse. Students maintain their constitutional rights of free speech and assembly today in accordance with *Tinker v. Des Moines* (1969) and “do not necessarily shed their rights at the schoolhouse gate.”

According to their website, the Women’s March Network is calling for students “to take part in a National School Walkout for 17 minutes at 10:00 a.m. across every time zone on March 14, 2018 to protest Congress’ inaction to do more than tweet thoughts and prayers in response to the gun violence plaguing our schools and neighborhoods.” Students are organizing the national school walkout “to demand Congress pass legislation to keep [them] safe from gun violence at [their] schools, on [the] streets and in [their] homes and places of worship.” [https://www.actionnetwork.org/event\\_campaigns/enough-national-school-walkout](https://www.actionnetwork.org/event_campaigns/enough-national-school-walkout)

It is our intention to provide high school students with the opportunity to participate in the National School Walkout as outlined above. **While this participation is voluntary, it is highly recommended that families discuss this matter with their students in order to be aware of whether your student plans to participate, whether he/she understands what the protest is about, and to make the decision that is right for each individual.** Students who participate (as well as those who do not) will not be subject to any disciplinary action as long as they abide by the parameters that will be communicated for the walkout. Students should be aware that academic instruction will continue, and they will be responsible for missed work during the duration of the walkout.

Nazareth Area High School wishes to provide a safe environment for students to participate if they so choose. As such, in order to provide for a secure and orderly activity, instructions for those planning to participate in the National School Walkout on March 14 will be communicated in school just prior to the event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Davis', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan Davis  
Principal