

# Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202

We prepare learners for the future.



## Administrative Center

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Plainfield, IL 60544

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March 2, 2018

Dear District 202 Parents,

The tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida has inspired a national discussion on the causes of school shootings and the appropriate responses to these events, which are happening far too frequently.

Students nationwide, led by Parkland survivors, are engaging in spirited conversations on these topics. They're taking an active role in schools, outside of schools, discussing the issue on social media, and debating what legislative actions should follow this horrific incident.

In many schools, teachers and administrators have recast this tragedy as a chance to teach students about the role of activism in our society and calls to action directed towards our legislators. Some outside organizations or students have also announced plans on social media for protests or walkouts on various dates and times across the nation.

However, there is an inherent safety risk for students, staff, and the district in tacitly allowing student walkouts. I, as Superintendent, am not willing to take that risk. District 202 will not approve or endorse a walkout by our students.

Advertising a specific date, time, and location of a walkout to the world involving our students is simply not prudent in regards to student safety. Rumors are already circulating about bad things that could happen during one or more student walkout(s).

Rather, our building principals and administrators will be working with their students, staff, and community members to provide building-specific, age-appropriate, safe activities and options that provide concerned students a voice, but first and foremost do not place students or staff in an unsafe environment with increased risk for harm. As on any school day, a student who walks out or disrupts the normal educational process will receive appropriate school discipline per the parent-student handbook.

We ask that our students remain respectful and consider the change they want to make; who has the power or authority to make those decisions; and the safest way in which to express their opinion. Unfocused, undirected action is rarely effective no matter the cause or commitment behind it.

We think of our students' safety every day -- and many times a day. Certainly, change can be made in several areas. However, we never want to change our commitment to students getting home from school safely every day.

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lane Abrell".

Dr. Lane Abrell  
Superintendent