



Derek Pierce
Principal
piercd@portlandschools.org

Casco Bay High School
For Expeditionary Learning

196 Allen Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103
PH (207) 874-8160 • Fax (207) 797-5437
<http://CBHS.portlandschools.org>



Portland Public Schools

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Dear CBHS Families,

I wanted to give you an update on the CBHS plans in response to the National Walkout planned for next Wednesday March 14th. By now, you have received a letter from Superintendent Botana detailing Portland Public Schools' position regarding the 17-minute National Walkout in response to the horrific shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.

The walkout will occur in secondary schools across the district during a pause in the instructional day between 10am and 10:30am. We have adjusted the schedule, and we will now have a shortened school meeting directly preceding 10am. As a part of school meeting, we will review the options students have between 10:00-10:30am:

- 1) Students may participate in the walkout.
- 2) Students may remain in the great space if they would like to discuss why they choose not to participate or other aspects of school safety.
- 3) Students may go to the library if they wish to participate in quiet study.

In each setting, ample faculty will be present to supervise and assist. We will support and honor each student in making the choice that makes sense for that student.

I have been connecting with student leaders about their plans for the walkout which currently include a silence to honor the victims, student speakers and a voter registration drive. Participating students will exit out the back of the building (by the greenhouse). We will have a student section and a separate section for any family members or community members who would like to attend. We will have a representative from Portland Police on campus to assist with the proceedings.

Following the designated half hour, all students will return to the regular school day. Crew lunch will immediately follow so students will have an opportunity to debrief the experience as needed in small groups and with their advisor.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. As educators, nurturing and cultivating student voice is one of our most challenging and sacred missions. We strive to have each student graduate with a voice that is strong, clear, confident - and authentically their own. For many students (and perhaps for a generation), March 14th will be one important step in that process.

Sincerely,

Derek Pierce

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Portland Public Schools
Assuring that all students are learning for their future



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