

Lakeview Elementary School

ACCREDITED MEMBER OF THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

660 CENTER STREET • GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA 29649

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March 13, 2018

Dear Parents & Students:

Greenwood School District 50 and *Lakeview Elementary School* are aware of a movement on March 14th to have a National School Walkout. The district and *Lakeview Elementary School* are committed to allowing students to honor this occasion in a safe and secure way and have their voices heard.

We acknowledge that many of our students see this as a peaceful way to express their concerns. We believe students have a right to a voice in this national conversation about school safety.

There has been a heightened awareness on school safety in our district due to recent events in our city, state, and nation. The safety and security of students and adults are our top priority. **While the district and school understand the desire of some of our students to join in this national protest, we can in no way sanction this event.**

Allowing students to walk-out of a secure building en masse at a predetermined time poses a major security risk. We have spoken with law enforcement and they agree that a walkout poses a safety threat. However, in order to ensure this event is done in a safe, orderly manner with no disruption to the day and educational process, our school administration will provide students a safe, secure place to assemble. Any disruptions or students gathering outside of this supervised area will be subject to the school discipline code.

Our district policy states that we firmly believe in the democratic process and in those principles that are a part of the heritage of our nation. Our policy further directs that no employee will influence or attempt to influence our students. As such, employees of the district are unable to serve as participants in this student-led initiative. Similarly, for safety reasons, no outside individuals will be allowed to participate in the student-led activity.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lakeview Elementary School at (864) 941-5760. Thank you for your continued support of our school and your efforts in helping to keep our students and staff safe.

Sincerely,



Molly M. Smith, Ph.D.

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