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Bunker Hill Middle School

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"Carrying on a Proud Tradition of Learning"

Dr. Gregory B. Muscelli
Assistant Principal

March 9, 2018

Dear Bunker Hill Families:

A month after the tragedy at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, our country, our families, and our children are still reeling from what transpired. Citizens and school children have banded together across the nation in the hopes of raising awareness to eradicate these atrocities in our school and community. Students and community members across the country have used the right to assemble, social media, and national television to spark this change.

On March 14, 2018, it has come to our attention that (across the country) school children hope to use this day to peacefully assemble to remember the victims of that tragedy and raise awareness against school violence. Over the last several days, specifically four Bunker Hill students have spoken with administration to indicate their desire to peacefully assemble on March 14, 2018. The staff and administration would like to honor their right to assemble and would also like to honor their request.

On Thursday, March 8, 2018, I had the fortune of meeting with administrators at the middle and high school levels, Superintendent, Mr. Bollendorf, Police Chief Gurcsik, and Police Captain Kennedy. The purpose of the meeting was to inform them of our students' intentions and collaborate with them to ensure the safety of our students as they assemble. On March 14, 2018 our campus will be secured by Washington Township Police and School Security Personnel, and this will allow us to assemble safely with the proper security.

On Friday, March 9, 2018, Dr. Muscelli and I met with the students who plan to organize the event to collaborate on the agenda for the demonstration. We brainstormed how that assembly will take place; we discussed varied speeches that those students hoped to make; we also made a commitment of solidarity to unite not as students and teachers but as a Bunker Hill Family. The students expressed interest in spending time after school next week, prior to the event to make posters that showcase their message. Dr. Muscelli and I as well as the staff are so proud of these young people for speaking up and having the courage to reach out to enact change.

It is important to note that although the staff and the district support the students' right to peacefully assemble, there may be students who chose to not assemble. We also respect this right of those students as well. As a result, we will provide supervision for them so they too are safe. We will have staff from Bunker Hill supervise those students.

We also respectfully request that parents or community members refrain from coming to the school during the assembly. We have been instructed to also keep the building secure and will not allow community into the building until the assembly is complete. This keeps our students even more safe in the process.

Please feel free to contact our main office should you have questions or concerns. The assembly will occur on March 14, 2018 at an agreed upon time by the student leaders, administration, and Washington Township Police. Thank you for understanding the importance of this right for the students while at the same time respecting the school's stance to maintain their safety.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike D'Ostilio", written in a cursive style.

Mike D'Ostilio