



LAWRENCE COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

750 Phelps Way, New Castle, PA 16101-5099 ♦ 724-658-3583 Fax 724-658-4753 ♦ www.lcvt.tec.pa.us

March 12, 2018

To the families of LCCTC:

On Wednesday March 14th, some students are planning to participate in a school walk out at approximately 10:00 a.m. The administration neither condones nor condemns a student's desire to protest.

To be clear, the LCCTC will **NOT** officially participate. As an educational institution it is to be business as normal. Students compromise security and safety when they leave class and the building without permission.

Some students intend to exit the building without permission and without supervision. The pretense is support for Parkland and for the LCCTC. Unfortunately, the national organizers of this march do not share such noble concerns. I invite you to click on the following link for more information: <https://www.womensmarch.com/enough-faq>. Some of the more concerning comments include: "It is important that when we refer to gun violence, we do not overlook the impact of police brutality and militarized policing, or see police in schools as a solution. We also recognize the United States has exported gun violence through imperialist foreign policy to destabilize other nations. We raise our voices for action against all these forms of gun violence."

Of greater concern are the multiple postings on social media. Several students have posted not only common information such as time and place, but how the walk out is to proceed. By doing so a potential perpetrator of violence has more than enough information to do substantial harm.

As an alternative, the LCCTC encourages students to engage and welcome one another as suggested by Mr. David Blair. Mr. Blair wrote an open letter to students across the country. Some of his words are: "You are the answer. Your greeting, your smile, your gentle human touch is the only thing that can change the world of a desperate classmate who may be contemplating something as horrendous as a school shooting. Look past yourself and look past your phone and look into the eyes of a student who no one else sees. Meet the gaze of a fellow human being desperate to make contact with anyone, even just one person, you. If you really feel the need to walk, walk toward that person. Your new friendship can relieve the heartache of one person and in doing so, possibly prevent the unjustifiable heartache of hundreds of lives in the future. I know you. I trust you. You are the answer." The full letter can be found at: <http://www.ktsa.com/open-letter-teacher-students-walking/>

In conclusion, we pray for peace. We mourn the senseless loss of students at Parkland and around our country. We are fortunate to be part of school that gives everyone a chance. For purposes of safety and security we believe it best to continue normal routines. Therefore Wednesday March 14th will be business as usual at LCCTC. If you have concerns regarding your child's attendance at school on Wednesday, you may keep them home absent excused. If your student attends on Wednesday, it is our expectation that they remain supervised. We encourage you to have this conversation with your families.

Sincerely,

Leonard A. Rich

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Administrative Director

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