



# HADLEY LUZERNE CENTRAL SCHOOL

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**Beecher Baker Sr.**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

*"Let us think of education as the means of  
developing our greatest abilities." JFK*

March 9, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may have heard, in response to the school shooting in Parkland, Florida many student groups across the nation are organizing demonstrations to protest gun violence and to call upon state and federal lawmakers to take action against guns. As part of these demonstrations, the organizers are encouraging students to walk out of school on March 14 and April 20.

While students retain certain rights to "free speech" for personal expression while in school, the Supreme Court has routinely held that such protections do not extend to speech which would "*materially and substantially disrupt*" the educational process. With this in mind, Hadley-Luzerne Central School District views the deliberate walk out of a class in session as a **material or substantial disruption** to that process.

Therefore, students who participate in a walkout will be subject to discipline as stated in the Code of Conduct which may include I.S.S./O.S.S. and exclusion from P.M. activities ie. 100 night's dinner. The district feels strongly that there are other ways to show support for an issue without disrupting school. We remain concerned about our children's mental and physical safety. Elementary-aged children are not equipped to fully process and understand such events. Likewise, it would be impossible to supervise and adequately protect our students from potential harm as students leave supervised classrooms at the elementary or junior/senior high school level.

**Our schools must remain safe and focused on learning.**

Please have a conversation with your child prior to these dates and ensure that they make a thoughtful decision.

Sincerely,

Beecher Baker Sr.  
Superintendent of Schools