



WTMC

Transforming Education  
Transforming Lives

March 12, 2018

Dear Washtenaw Technical Middle College (WTMC) Families,

I have spent considerable time reflecting on the tragic events at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Tragedies of this nature cause us as a school community to review our safety plans, talk with our students and work closely with Washtenaw Community College (WCC) to maintain the safe and supportive learning environment that exists for our students.

On March 14<sup>th</sup> there is a national student walkout in response to the events in Parkland. Washtenaw Youth Initiative has organized a school walkout and off campus rally to protest gun violence as part of the larger national movement. A number of our students have expressed interest in supporting this by walking out of class and/or attending a rally off campus. These are two separate events organized by Washtenaw county high school students. I encourage you to discuss these events with your child. These are not school sponsored, and we do not have all the details on these events.

As a school, we recognize peaceful engagement and an individual's right to free speech. Our number one goal is to continue to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all our students. I want to share with you the plans and protocols for that day:

- We are asking that all students participating in the walkout remain on school grounds for their own safety.
- This is a student-initiated and led activity, which starts at 10:00 a.m., the established national start time. The event on campus will last approximately 17 minutes.
- We are asking students who leave their class to go to the front of the Student Center by the sculpture, or the area between LA and GM buildings. They must remain on the sidewalks, and refrain from any activities that would disrupt classes in session on campus. Students should **not** go to Community Park, the grass area between TI and LA/GM buildings.
- Staff at both WTMC and WCC will continue following their usual teaching schedule.
- **Should any student be participating in any activity off campus, they must notify their teachers. Classes both at WTMC and WCC will proceed as normal. WCC has informed WTMC that students who miss their WCC classes will not be given special consideration to make up tests or quizzes.**
- As always Campus Safety will be present on WCC.
- WTMC students continue to demonstrate their sound character in many ways and we expect a peaceful, planned and respectful event on campus. We ask that you have conversations at home about whether or not your child is participating. This can be a positive civics lesson for all, those who participate and those who choose to remain in the classroom.

It is a privilege to serve the students of WTMC. Ensuring our students are safe to learn and grow in our classrooms, is a commitment we make daily.

Sincerely,

Karl Covert Ph.D.

Dean/Superintendent

Washtenaw Technical Middle College

Washtenaw Technical Middle College

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