



*"Bulldog Country"*

# Hemet High School

A California Distinguished School

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It has almost been a month since the Parkland, Florida school tragedy and it continues to weigh heavily on our hearts. It has left our schools, community, and nation heartbroken as we think about the many lives lost and the families that have been affected.

During this time, a nationwide conversation about preventative safety measures has begun. Understandably, these important conversations can create emotional and political debates and there are calls for a school walkout nationwide on March 14 and April 20.

We know that students have a powerful voice that can affect change. We are seeing students that may want to show solidarity in support of the victims of the Florida shooting and we are proud to know that our students want to support the victims. We also understand that there are students who may want to exercise their First Amendment rights to express their personal views. In addition, we have students, particularly younger students, who may not want to participate at all. Our goal as a District is to ensure that all students feel safe, supported, and respected as they grapple with these issues.

Our middle and high school administrators have met with district administrators to discuss various options for our students during this time. School administrators are working with their student leaders to develop avenues in which students can express their viewpoints and engage in constructive dialogue while remaining on campus where we can ensure their safety. We want families to know that while students can exercise their freedom of speech rights, they cannot disrupt instruction. If a student chooses to leave campus for the demonstration period, regular absence/discipline procedures will apply.

We care deeply about the safety of our students and schools and therefore encourage our students to remain on campus. Thank you for your continued support in our ongoing efforts to create a safe and respectful learning environment.