



San Benito High School District

1220 Monterey Street
HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA 95023-4708
PHONE (831) 637-5831 ext. 132
www.sbhsd.k12.ca.us

SHAWN TENNENBAUM
SUPERINTENDENT

March 12, 2018

Dear San Benito High School students and parents,

The recent tragedy in Parkland, Florida and other losses of life on school campuses across the nation over several years have driven increased interest in student-led civic engagement efforts. Our goal in responding to student walkouts and other forms of peaceful assembly is to try to keep the focus on teaching and learning while providing guidance and planning to support student and staff safety.

Based on social media messaging across the United States, students at some schools -- including San Benito High School -- have plans for a walkout on the morning of Wednesday, March 14. Some SBHS students have communicated directly with us that they plan to walk out but stay on campus that day as part of a remembrance event for the 17 lives lost in the Parkland shooting to make a peaceful plea for school safety.

Our top priority is to support the academic and social emotional needs of our students while maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment for all. We respect and support the right of our students to advocate for causes that are important to them and welcome the opportunity to work with any student or student group to discuss appropriate and creative ways to do so while at school.

We encourage all students to remain in class and on campus and not miss their educational day. Attendance will be taken for all students, including those who attend the peaceful protest. Those who choose to miss class beyond the time period communicated to school administrators will be marked unexcused. It is also important to know that disorderly conduct that disrupts school operations is not acceptable and will be handled compassionately, but firmly in accordance with Education Codes, Board Policy, and Administrative Regulations.

We are reminding and expecting students and community members to be open to varying opinions and to keep communication and behavior toward one another peaceful, respectful, and safe. We are not facilitating one message or belief over another; rather, we are creating safe space for all students during a time many wish to explore and exercise their right to free speech.

Students can contact me or any other school administrator at any time. We encourage you to talk to your student(s) about how they may be feeling about recent events and the importance of expressing themselves in appropriate ways at school.

Thank you for your continued support of the San Benito High School District.

Sincerely,

Shawn Tennenbaum, Superintendent

Adrian Ramirez, Principal

The Mission of San Benito High School is to educate all students to their highest potential so they will have the greatest range of personal options upon graduation.

1999
1994
1988
California
DISTINGUISHED
SCHOOL
AWARD



1987
1986
California
OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD



1984
United States
Department of
Education
EXEMPLARY
HIGH SCHOOL
AWARD