



March 12, 2018

Dear RHS Families and Friends:

In recent days, some students at Rutland High School have considered how to respond to the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. To its great credit, our Student Senate proposed an opportunity to memorialize the lives lost in Parkland now one month ago.

Our students requested the chance to align with a national event that is taking place Wednesday, March 14. They proposed a moment of silence in the morning, allowing our students to honor their Florida peers who suffered this tragedy. They asked for this to take place in the building in one of our common areas. Their intention is to keep the commemoration relatively brief. They also asked that participation be voluntary.

The adults in Rutland High School are consistently impressed with the way our students lead. Their proposals emphasize respect, empathy, and consideration for differing viewpoints. They are intent on not disrupting the academic day, nor politicizing a heartbreaking event. We are inspired by their thoughtfulness. They continue to lead the way with a creed that we follow, "Be kinder than necessary."

Again, participation is optional. As this will occur during the school day inside the building, it is not a public event.

We thank you for supporting our young people as they consider how to enter civic engagement through their school community.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Bill Olsen, Principal