

Hello Bulldogs and Parents,

Some of you are aware that there is currently a social media post circulating regarding a statewide school walk in protest of gun violence on Thursday, May 11. The original post was not created by our students, but many are seeing and sharing it. There are also posts that have stated the administration has approved the walkout. While students will be allowed to peacefully protest and participate in a walk-out, I believe strongly that our students are safest in classrooms with their teachers. I anticipate that the news of the walk out will also increase rumors about school being unsafe on Thursday. I encourage you to reassure your child that he or she is safe and encourage them to report any concerns or rumors to their House Office immediately.

As your child's principal, and as a parent myself, I hate that our children are having to deal with these difficult circumstances and the added stress caused by rumors of violence. Unfortunately, this increase in rumors of school violence is happening across districts in North Texas. We are all fully aware of the tragic events from this past weekend and many of our students are still processing their own thoughts about what happened in Allen. Their instinct is to talk with friends about it, just as many of us are processing as adults and talking with family members, friends or co-workers. However, sometimes the conversations between teens lead to more rumors due to hearsay. I encourage you to have guided conversations with your child about what they are hearing and what they are thinking and feeling. Again, I ask that you reassure your child they are safe here at school and to report any rumor of threats of violence directly to a school administrator versus sharing out on social media or through messaging with friends. Additionally, our school counselors are available if your child is struggling with a sense of fear or anxiety about attending school.

Finally, there have been no threats made against our school and as always, our priority is keeping our students safe. It is important that you and your child know we treat every threat of violence seriously and work with our campus SROs and McKinney PD to determine the validity of any threat. We handle these situations as they arise so that we can respond appropriately to keep students safe and address the disciplinary issues if needed. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jae Gaskill
Principal
McKinney North High School