

MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Dear Malden School Community,

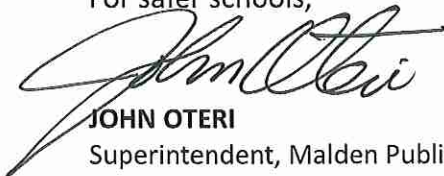
Since the horrible tragedy of Parkland, Florida on February 14, 2018, we have seen students take action to effectuate change. After every school shooting, political and educational leaders as well as parents pledge that "things will change and this will never happen again." This time, with students taking the lead, we are actually starting to see some substantive change.

It is often the goal of every educational district to prepare students for civic and social engagement. To this end, the Malden Public Schools and the Mayor's Office are committed to supporting students in fostering this goal. On Wednesday, March 14th at 10 AM there will be a nationwide call to action for students and staff to walk out of school for 17 minutes, with each minute being dedicated to a fallen victim of the Parkland shooting. The Malden Public Schools will work with our student-leaders in the High School and in our 7th and 8th grades on providing a venue and outlet for our students and staff to stand in solidarity with their counterparts across the country.

We are confident our students will handle this in a mature manner and use this time in productive ways such as for reflection, a call to action and to bring about change. This will be a student-led and student-centered show of solidarity and support. Our staff will be present but taking a secondary role to our students. This is their opportunity to lead and we are so proud of them.

Any student who wishes to participate in the walk-out will not be penalized or disciplined. Students who do not choose to participate will be provided a safe and supervised place for them to stay. We are certain this will be a seminal moment in our students' lives and will be an impactful moment across the country. We know our diverse, dedicated and thoughtful students will provide the leadership and voice that will carry the next generation to a safer and more inclusive world. We have held these as ideals, now is the time to let our students shine. We are certain they will.

For safer schools,



JOHN OTERI
Superintendent, Malden Public Schools



GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden