



8601 West Roosevelt Road  
Forest Park, IL 60130

708.338.5912  
708.338.5999 FAX  
jrodriguez@pths209.org

February 22, 2018

Dear Proviso Families,

Our hearts and thoughts go out to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School community. Please know, that we are committed to cultivating a safe and secure learning environment. As you may know, there is a movement encouraging a national school walk-out on March 14<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for students and staff to protest against gun violence and honor the seventeen victims from the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. The district administration has been monitoring social media, which is where most students are getting information about the protests and has developed a plan to respond to the walk-outs, should one occur.

D209 acknowledges that students have a right to demonstrate support for a cause. Therefore, if parents wish to excuse their children from school to attend such an event or demonstration, that is their right. However, the school or district will not excuse any student to leave school without parents' permission. The district will follow the established attendance procedures to address unexcused absences from school. Furthermore, if students disrupt the learning environment for others, this will be addressed as well.

In the event that Proviso students do engage in a walk-out, we have developed an emergency plan for faculty and staff members designed to ensure the safety of all students. As a top priority, we have added additional support to our building entrances and repurposed staff.

The following measures have been established to safeguard the well-being of the entire school community:

- All Proviso Township schools have a single main entrance that is locked at all times and visitors will be buzzed into the buildings. Each main entrance has a camera, allowing staff to see visitors. Staff has the ability to deny entry to visitors, if they have concerns.
- Visitors are required to check-in at the security desk where they will be asked to provide a state issued I.D. Visitors will then be issued a badge that must be displayed at all times.
- Each school has a safety plan tailored to the needs of that building and community.
- There are more than 1,000 cameras located in our buildings and properties.
- Our professionally-trained school safety staff are prepared to help schools deal with a variety of situations.
- We take all threat seriously and collaborate with local authorities when situations arise.

If your child expresses any concerns, please reach out to your child's school counselor, teacher or administrator. You can also find additional resources for responding to violence and tragedy at:

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/when-terrible-things-happen-helping-students-recover-trauma/>.

Again, I would like to assure you that the safety of your child is our top priority. We look forward to our continued dialogue and socio-emotional support for all students.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse J. Rodriguez".

Jesse J. Rodriguez, Ph.D.  
Superintendent