



AHS

Angola High School
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<http://ahs.msdsteuben.k12.in.us>



AHS prepares students with the skills they need to succeed in life.

Dear MSD of Steuben County Families:

Our primary responsibility as a school is to educate students in a safe environment and our mission statement says that we will work “in partnership with our families and community” to make that happen. So, we are reaching out to you as partners to communicate with you regarding an issue of student safety and learning.

In the wake of the tragedy in Parkland, Florida, a national protest group has called for high school students to walk out of school on March 14 and April 20 to bring about changes to our gun laws. We realize that we serve a diverse community with broad political and social opinions. We respect the right of students and their families to hold and express a variety of views. The federal courts have ruled that school employees are not covered by the Free Speech clause while on duty and may not participate in or encourage any type of protest. We are required to continue to do our jobs as assigned. Therefore, we cannot take sides in the issues related to any protest during the school day.

The national protest movements are student-led, and we have only had a couple of local students come to us to say they are interested in protesting. If students do come forward to express a desire to participate, we will work with them to help them find ways to express their views and offer support to the students of Parkland without disrupting the educational day by walking out of classes. For instance, students could write to their representatives in Congress, write letters to the editor, or find other ways of expressing themselves.

We will maintain the same standard of behavior and attendance on the days of protest as on any other day so that we can focus on learning. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

The AHS Administrative Team

Travis Heavin, Principal
Nancy Irwin, Assistant Principal
Mark Ridenour, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Scott Poor, Associate Principal, Educational Opportunity Center
Jack Vrana, Director of Guidance