

William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent

December 3, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The impacts of climate change are felt everywhere and are having very real consequences on people's lives. In light of this, and following a climate strike that took place on September 20, on Friday, December 6, students from across the nation are planning to walk out of school to join the climate strikes planned to bring awareness to this issue. These off campus organized climate strikes are not District-sponsored events and the District is not assuming any responsibility for the students who choose to walk out of school and participate.


As a school district, we encourage our students to be actively engaged citizens who are knowledgeable about current events. This can be a learning opportunity that helps our students apply lessons they are learning in school. Above all, we want them to know we value their voices and their right to self-expression. We recognize that there are widely held and differing opinions about how the education system should react, and after careful consideration, we are encouraging and have provided school leaders with resources to organize in-school events and/or activities that allow students to express their opinions and ideas as an alternative to participating in the walk-out event. As always, ensuring their safety is our top priority. Any student who simply walks out of school without parental consent will not be allowed to later return to school and their absence will not be excused. If you would like to permit your child to participate in an off campus climate strike event, please contact your child's school and provide written consent in accordance with that school's principal's absence consent directions.

As parents, we face many challenges striving to bring up our children with the best possible opportunities for their future health, happiness, and success. We can seize such moments as these and turn it into a learning experience by discussing environmentally-friendly things they can do every day and help them learn to appreciate and care for the natural world.

You may find it useful to gradually introduce them to the known facts, then ask them how they feel, before acknowledging that the ultimate outcome is uncertain. Finally, you can assist your child in taking practical steps to make a difference, such as by cutting down on non-recyclable waste and choosing food with a better climate footprint.

Supporting our children with positive and open conversations is crucial in helping them deal with uncertainty and we will continue to create the safest and most positive learning environments possible for your children.

Sincerely,



William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.