



**MACKINAW CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
MACKINAW CITY, MICHIGAN 49701

**JEFFREY S. CURTH**  
Superintendent

PHONE: 231-436-8211  
FAX: 231-436-5434

The Mackinaw City Public School District supports our students' right to peaceful protest with minimal disruption to the school day. Our administrators are working and will continue to work with student groups and individual students to ensure safety for all. No student will face disciplinary action for participating in a peaceful protest and we are confident that our students will hold themselves to the high standards we set every day in the MCPS. Conversely, no student will be coerced or encouraged to participate in any protest by staff. Following the lead of students in Florida, any decision to take action rests with individual students, and we encourage them to have conversations with their parents in anticipation of nationally planned protests.

Specifically, our administrators and school will support our students' right to make their voices heard and depending on the needs of individual students, we will do our best to accommodate student requests for assistance.

From what we have learned from student leaders and reports from around the country, we anticipate that the protest will involve students leaving their classrooms for a short period of time (approximately 17 minutes.) If this is the case, parents do not need to call their students out or report absences. If your child intends to engage in an extended protest or leave campus, please call the school to notify, as you would for any other absence or early dismissal.

We encourage students who choose to protest to realize that not every student will share their views on every aspect of this issue and it's important that everyone involved is respectful to one another. Teachers and staff will remain in the classroom with students who chose not to participate.

We are, as always, extremely proud of our students and their ability to think critically about important issues. School safety is a primary concern to every one of us—students, parents, administrators and staff. We have implemented many new school safety measures this year; new school wide communication system, exterior door locking system, and a new interactive clocks that allows for updates and important information to be sent to all classrooms. Our students' voices are important in this conversation and we are mindful that though they do not speak with one voice, the goal of safe schools is universal.

We believe that the single most important thing we can do to ensure safety in our schools is to continue to attend to the social, emotional and physical well-being of all. We listen to our students, provide support and intervention as needed and depend on them to share anything they may hear or see online that could pose a danger to others. The recent shooting in Florida and other instances of violence at schools across the country are devastating to all of us, and we want our students and families to know that we will work alongside law enforcement and our community to ensure that they are safe in the Mackinaw City Public School District.