Dear Hi Tides and Parents,

We join all of you in expressing our sadness at this latest attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Together as a Hi Tide family, our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and their families.

Safety of our students and staff is our #1 priority and we take this responsibility very seriously.

There are many security measures that as a district have been implemented, with the goal of making our campus as secure as possible and training our teachers and staff how to respond in the unlikely event of a security breach.

\* We have provided "Emergency and Safety Training" sessions and procedures for all of our teachers and staff.

\* We hold regular evacuation and lockdown drills with our entire school population.

\* We have closed and secured various entrances to the school campus, providing security and supervision at those locations daily and ensuring only 1 single point of entry, the Main Gate. Students will walk from the bus lane (South side of school or the drop off lane on the east side of the school). Both entrances lead to the Main Gate and check-in point.

\*We are thoroughly checking that each student has their school identification visibly on their lanyard around their neck at all times, are in complete uniform, and arrive to school on time.

\* We have also revised our entrance procedures, to include verification of and maintaining a written log of state/country-issued identification for verification and access into the main office.

\*We have heightened security/police presence for day/evening events.

These measures supplement our existing security protocols, including our closed-circuit camera system, our visitor identification procedures, and our safe-environment procedures and background checks, among many others.

Here are some ways that you can help in keeping our students safe:

-Arrive to school on time so we can quickly close the gates and secure the campus. Students should arrive to school between 6:45 - 7:10 a.m. This will provide enough time to report to class by 7:20 a.m. for the start of school.

-Do not pick up early from school. Students will not be dismissed early unless the child is sick or has a doctor's appointment. Try and schedule appointments after school hours.

-Do not come back to school if your child has forgotten an assignment, a Chromebook, PE clothes, etc. Make sure he/she has everything needed before leaving the house.

-Use the car line at both drop-off and pick-up. This will limit walkers on campus.

-Identify procedures for your students to quickly go to their after-school activities, ensuring quick transitions after school. All gates will be secured and locked after school allowing for only the one supervised main entry gate.

Thank you for your cooperation. We appreciate all students and parents who follow our rules and regulations and thank you for helping us to keep our students and Hi Tide community safe!!!

**Maria T. Rodriguez, Ph.D.**

**Principal**

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***Decision is the spark that ignites the action.***

***Until a decision is made nothing happens.***

***~ Wilfred A. Peterson***