



# Altmar Parish Williamstown Central Schools

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Dear APW families,

In the wake of yet another school tragedy, I am reaching out to reassure the community that we are taking every precaution to protect your children at APW Central School District. Our leadership team meets regularly to share information and improve upon our internal procedures and like you, the safety of everyone in our school community will always be our number one priority. Every single child attending this district has the right to feel safe and secure while at school or related events. We will be vigilant in ensuring that this is always the case at APW.

In recent days we have been approached by students with questions, concerns, and a desire to do something to cause substantive change. Several students expressed interest in the National School Walkout set to take place on March 14<sup>th</sup>. This event is being staged as a national protest against violence in schools. While we share our students concerns, it is our intention to hold an event more productive than a walkout. In the morning of March 14<sup>th</sup>, we are planning a school wide conversation in lieu of a walkout. During the week your children will have the opportunity to submit questions or express concerns that will guide our program. These questions and concerns will be addressed during our assembly in an effort to identify potential issues and reassure students that they are safe while here at school. We intend to involve local law enforcement agencies in our discussion and educate our students about what they can do to affect positive change in our community.

Please talk to your children and encourage them to share their ideas and concerns with faculty and administration over the next week. Students are often the best source of information about potential issues in school and all too often they are viewed as *bystanders*. On behalf of the Board of Education, faculty, staff, and administration, thank you for your support and active participation in helping us create a community of *upstanders* at APW Central Schools.

Sincerely,

Eric Knuth  
Superintendent of Schools

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