



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta
Superintendent of Schools

February 16, 2018

Dear Pearl River School Community,

I began the week by sending a letter to the school community regarding our protocols for student safety and social emotional well-being. Today, I end the week expressing our profound sadness regarding the unspeakable and senseless tragedy at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Our prayers are with the families of not only those who died, but of all of students and families of the Parkland School Community.

I wish to reiterate our commitment to supporting our students not just academically, but physically, socially and emotionally as well. Our proactive work to promote safe and healthy school environments includes:

- Each of our schools actively engage in the promotion of pro-social behavior, the prevention of behaviors that are harmful to individuals, and the spirit that we seek to build into the communities of our classrooms and schools.
- Our staff members have gone beyond the standard required levels of awareness and identification of at-risk behavior and we continue to grow professionally in our knowledge of school safety and support for children experiencing stress and anxiety.
- Security protocols are in place at each school, and safety drills are conducted regularly with the excellent support of the Orangetown Police Department.

As a result of the horrible tragedy endured in Parkland, Florida, and its nearness in time to other similar tragedies, students may report experiencing anxiety. Middle and high school students should be encouraged to seek out the support of their school guidance counselor, social worker, school psychologist, or other trusted staff member. For elementary school children, parents please speak with your child's principal.

Please be assured of our attention and diligence in the protection of all of our children. We will continue to evaluate our safety protocols and procedures and keep you informed as we go forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Marco F. Pochintesta'.