

Graham Local Schools Safety Update #4: Summary of March 14th Student-Led School Safety Awareness Programs at Graham High School and Graham Middle School.

1.) What steps did district and school leaders taking to address the programs held at GHS and GMS?

Student organizers called for nationwide awareness events Wednesday, March 14. GHS and GMS student leaders had apprised principals of their plans of these unsanctioned events. GHS student leaders shared a document Tuesday, March 13th with school administration. GMS student leaders shares a document late Tuesday evening, and subsequently met with GMS principals Wednesday AM to dialogue about their plans. Staff at all buildings were sent informational emails. GHS held a staff meeting for awareness Tuesday after dismissal.

School officials were in contact with local authorities, and GLS Administration and local authorities monitored student activity on campus. The Emergency Operations Team convened prior to the events, and prepared planned responses. GLS has already posted 3 previous safety updates for our community.

2.) What form did the programs/walkouts take?

Student leaders determined ways to participate in the national event while staying on campus. Students honored the 17 Parkland victims aloud and held forums for students to dialogue. Graham Administrators and local authorities monitored the events at two buildings.

Approximately 125 GHS students held a forum in the football stadium from 10:00-10:25AM for a remembrance moment of silence, student dialogue about GHS safety issues, sharing of local mental health resources, Sandy Hook program review, and call to share concerns about school safety with local legislators. Students returned inside with no disruptions and returned to classes by 10:30 AM.

Approximately 45 GMS students held a forum for 17 minutes outside on the north side of the building. They observed a 3 minute silence period, followed by sharing of information about contacting local legislators to voice their opinions about school safety. Students returned inside with no disruptions and returned to classes by 10:20 AM.

3.) What happened to students who left class?

GLS Administrators worked to communicate expectations to students regarding student behavior and their responsibilities prior to the events. There were no disruptions inside or outside the school that affected our operations substantially. No one has been disciplined for behaviors associated with these events. Students that violate school policy around attendance, or who cause disruptions, can still be disciplined. Administrators advised student leaders, who cooperated with school officials during the events.

4.) How did the schools accommodate students who didn't participate?

Graham staff continued operations during this time period in all buildings. Principals and teachers were not participants in the "safety programs". Our administrative staff monitored the students, and the GLS team used this occasion to provide valuable advice to students on school procedures, safety awareness, and their speech and assembly rights.

5.) Are there any "next steps" for students?

The GHS and GMS teams are debriefing with the student leaders and have invited them to a follow-up meeting with school officials to dialogue about their views on school safety awareness.