



# HANOVER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Michael B. Gill, Ed. D.*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

February 21, 2018

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

Last week, our nation witnessed yet another senseless tragedy at a Florida high school where innocent lives were lost. We continue to extend our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to the families and friends of the victims, as well as the entire Parkland community. Their loss is unimaginable.

The ripple effects of this tragedy have been felt throughout our country, and our community is no exception. We are all understandably saddened, stunned, and concerned by these events, and we are left with more questions than anyone has answers. As we continue to reflect on and try to process the events that have unfolded, I want to reassure you that the safety of our students, teachers, and faculty are our highest priority, without exception.

To this end, I want to share with you that we take a very serious and deliberate approach to our school safety and security efforts. Each day, we work hand-in-hand with the Hanover County Sheriff's Office, Hanover Fire-EMS, and other community partners to ensure we remain vigilant and as prepared as possible. We are grateful for their support. Together, we work promptly to address all concerns that are brought to our attention, no matter how small. In addition, we continuously evaluate and update our safety and crisis plans at every school to further ensure that the unique needs of each campus are met. Finally, we put these plans into action by conducting a variety of drills throughout the year to help ensure a high level of readiness among our staff and students.

While I understand emotions may still be very raw, I genuinely hope this information provides you with some level of reassurance and confidence that the safety and well-being of our students and staff is our top priority every day. We will work tirelessly to provide safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments where all students can thrive and achieve their fullest potential. We take the privilege and responsibility very seriously.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Gill".

Michael Gill, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools