



November, 23, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As you are aware, a demonstration is planned for tomorrow, Monday, Nov. 24, in front of Norman High School. As Principal Beck has previously communicated, we are not going to prevent students from leaving classrooms to participate but there is information of which parents and guardians should be aware.

We do not know who will be in charge of tomorrow's event. While we first believed this would be a student-led and organized demonstration, we are far less certain of that now. As of the writing of this letter, close to 1,000 people have RSVP'd on social media they will be attending. And, what was first communicated on social media as a demonstration that would be less than an hour in length has now evolved into an event that will occupy the front of Norman High until at least 4:20 p.m.

In light of this, threats against Principal Beck and staff over the weekend, and reports to us by some parents that their students are being pressured and intimidated into participating tomorrow, we will have additional administrative support and Norman Police Department officers on campus. We will ask that students who want to take part in the demonstration have parental consent and return to class by their second hour. All those who have not returned by second hour will be marked unexcused unless a parent has contacted their attendance clerk to excuse them.

Parents and students have been working all weekend to provide a safe, productive alternative for our students tomorrow. There will be Tigers Take A Stand Against Bullying stickers and white ribbons in all common locations throughout the building in the morning. We hope the students will wear these in symbolic support. Further, we are enlarging a task force to include parents, students and faculty that we already had convened six months ago to study the implementation of a targeted, research-based sexual assault curriculum for our high schools and to review bullying policies. We will certainly do everything in our power to create school cultures that do not tolerate sexual assault and ensure our policies and procedures result in quick, effective responses to sexual assault and any related bullying.

We will continue to respond quickly to any reports of sexual assault of our students - wherever they occur - and we will continue to quickly report and work with law enforcement. We have done this and will continue to do so. Further, we will continue to respond to bullying when it is reported to us by victims, witnesses or others, and then act in accordance with law and policy, drawing on evidence to validate what will be decisive actions. Our priority is and always has been to educate our young people and to keep them safe.

Again, please talk to your student this evening about choices for tomorrow and the alternative being provided to them to wear stickers and ribbons in support of victims of sexual assault and bullying inside Norman High, where the normal academic schedule will continue throughout the day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joe Siano'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Joe Siano,
Superintendent, Norman Public Schools