



The Blue Raider Read

Information from the desk of Principal David Lanczycki

MARCH 1, 2018

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 7

Upcoming Events:

3/1 14th Annual Dodgeball Game – 5pm Gym

3/6 Parent Academic Series – Dangers of Sexting and Social Media – 5:30pm PAC

3/7 Athletic Boosters Club – 5:00pm Lib

3/7 SAC – 6:00pm Office Conf. Room

3/7 PTO – 7:00pm Lib

3/9 Freshmen/Sophomore Semi-Formal – 6:00pm White’s of Westport

3/13 Junior College Planning Meeting – 6pm PAC

3/14 String Festival – 4pm Gym

3/15 Band Festival – 4pm Gym

3/16 Release Day – 11:30am Teacher Professional Development

3/20 Choral Festival – 4pm PAC

3/23 Black and White Semi-Formal – 7pm Venus de Milo

3/27-29 MCAS ELA Testing – School Hours

3/29 Best Buddies Karaoke Night – 4pm SDC

3/30 No School – Good Friday

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Marching into Spring

March is one of the busiest times of year for us here at SBRHS. One sports season comes to an end while another begins, it is Music in Our Schools month and state MCAS Testing begins. We also have 2 Semi-Formals, DECA and Dodgeball ready to go. Don't forget about our Parent Academic Series about the Dangers of Sexting and Social Media. Bring on the warm weather. SB is ready for Spring.

Parkland and Our Response...

Whenever a school tragedy occurs, every member of a school community internalizes it and feels the emotions of what it would be like if it happened to us. It is our worst nightmare. Every student and staff member wants to feel safe and deserves that.

After the tragedy in Parkland, we became aware of national movements to "Walkout" of schools on particular dates. One of the dates was during the April vacation so we were not concerned about that. The other date was March 14th at 10am. In conversations internally, we were very uncomfortable with the idea of a potential threat knowing exactly when and where we would be gathering students for this purpose. I also believe that the school should have a voice. I made the decision to have a walkout on an undisclosed date and time as an attempt to allow our school to have a voice and to keep everyone safe. Giving this information out to the public in advance would contradict that objective. A small group of staff were aware and helped to support this moment including the Somerset Police Department who were very helpful.

At about 9:45am, a one call now email and the front sign notified people of what was about to happen. I believe everyone received that email. I then went on the loud speaker and explained the rationale to the students as I did above. I stressed that their safety is and will always be my priority. I told them that I was walking out to the football field and if anyone would like to volunteer to join me they could. I stated that any students that did not want to go out could go to the PAC.

I then made my way to the field not knowing if I would be standing out there with 3 people or a large crowd. We stood at the center of the field around the SB and the crowd filtered in. The students and staff were all around and I began to speak. My conversation had 3 points that I relayed.

1. Our thoughts and heart go out to the victims and community of Parkland. We referenced the scoreboard that had 6 minutes on the clock representing the length of time of the incident, 14 under the home score for the 14 people injured that we hoped would be able to go home soon and 17 under the guest for the victims that passed away. We had a moment of silence as I read off the 17 names and ages of the victims that had passed on. I spoke about how our labels do not define us and

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MCAS Dates:

ELA: March 27-29

Math: May 23-24

Science: June 6-7

Late Buses:

Late buses are offered on Monday thru Thursday at 3:45pm. There is one bus for Berkley students and one bus for Somerset students. Please be advised that the Berkley late bus drops students off at the Berkley Common.

Parking Passes:

Forms are available to be picked up in the Main Office. Parking spots are available first come first serve as long as you have a parking pass. Parking passes are \$50 for the year.

Senior End of the Year Events:

May 25: Finals Begin

June 1: Prom

June 8: Graduation 5pm



NEWS
The Breeze
sbrhsbreeze.org
The online news for the students and staff at Somerset Berkeley Regional High School

that we are all in this together.

2. This was an opportunity to ask for help from our national and state leaders to keep us safe. Let me be completely clear, this was NOT about gun control debates. I even said that this is not about guns because I did not want this to be mistaken as a political stance. I referenced our students as our future and the staff who are charged with molding the future.
3. We spoke about how we need to come together as a community. We need to support each other. We are courageous, not cowardice. We are vigilant, not victims. We are strong, not scared. Three member of our football team led our school cheer as the students stood with their right fist in the air for unity and strength and their left arm around each other for support.

Once this concluded, students were asked to go back to class which they did. Many classes used this teachable moment to have discussions about the safety of schools.

To address the criticism of the news crew being there. One of our goals was to let Parkland know we are with them and to get the message out to as many leaders as possible. I worked with the news crew and they were very respectful to the security of the moment and the students that were there. We did not want our messages to lack the ability to reach who we wanted it to reach.

All of our students are considered, in my eyes, as my own children. My staff is considered my brothers and sisters. Their safety is paramount to me. Their ability to be heard and to learn to send a message in a safe and organized fashion is a lesson we feel is important for them to know.

I understand that this has upset some people. Misinformation and conjecture fueled a fire that did not need to burn. As a principal, I understand that people will not agree with all of my decisions. My hope is that you will always know that every decision I make is with the student and staffs best interest in mind.

Social Media...

I want to thank everyone who has participated in the discussion through social media. I believe in looking at the positives. My generation did not grow up having social media and have had to learn how to maneuver through it. Some people are better at it then others and it can seem like the wild, wild west. We currently are teaching and helping students to learn the skill of having a conversation without it becoming contentious. Everyone is entitled to an opinion. What we are teaching our students is to make sure that you have enough data, the data is accurate and you stop and take a breath before pressing "post".

I have received so much correspondence and appreciate the feedback/support. A number of my students have reached out to me and so eloquently supported me and my staff during the flurry of negativity. To all of our alumni and parents who have done the same. Thank you. I am born and bred a Blue Raider. It is at the center of who I am. I take this honor of being the principal with the upmost seriousness. There is nowhere I would rather be then in this building with these students and this staff supported by these two communities. As the boys said, We are Raiders!



