



**Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.**  
Chief Executive Officer

November 17, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It has come to our attention that a mass student walkout is planned for Friday, November 18. This demonstration is not organized by Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS).

All students enjoy meaningful freedom of speech, press, assembly and religion, as stated in our *Students Rights & Responsibilities Handbook*. Many students have expressed strong feelings on both sides of the political spectrum over the recent presidential election. We have encouraged faculty and staff to guide students towards safe outlets of expression that do not disrupt the school day. PGCPS officials have been in contact with several local organizations about facilitating a youth-led conversation in the coming weeks for the broader community.

We take no position on the spirit or intent of the walkout; however, the event does raise serious student safety concerns. Leaving school grounds unaccompanied may cause harm to students' personal well-being. Please note that students who are absent from class due to the walkout will be marked unexcused.

Parents, please assist us in ensuring that students follow PGCPS rules and procedures. Talk to your child about any concerns over the election and the unintended consequences of their actions. Please encourage them to seek safe, respectful outlets for expression. Our schools will continue to be places of learning where all students feel welcome, safe and valued.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer