

Good Afternoon Lowell High School Families and Staff,

Our prayers, thoughts and hearts go out to our friends in Florida today after the tragedy that unfolded at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland yesterday. This has weighed heavily on all of our minds since we've heard about it. It just doesn't make sense how someone could perform such a hateful act against students.

Last night I decided to address our school in the morning and enlist their help with anything that seems alarming. The hardest part about yesterday is that it could "potentially" have been avoided. Everyone in our school must do our part in keeping our students and staff safe from harm. Please have a conversation with your child to encourage them to speak up even though this may not be what they've done in the pasts, we need all eyes and ears every day to help ensure our school is safe.

Below is the message I read over the intercom at 7:55am this morning:

---

Good Morning Students and Staff,

I would like you to join me in a moment of silence this morning in memory of our friends in Florida who lost their lives, or were injured due to a senseless act of violence yesterday afternoon at Parkland High School.

**Moment of silence**

At this time I would like the attention of all students and staff.

As the recent tragedy in Florida yesterday reminds us, we must all pay attention to the words and actions of everyone around us. I ask each of you to remember if you see something, please say something... If you hear something, please say something... If something doesn't seem right, please say something. We ask students to especially pay attention to what you see on social media, and know that you have a responsibility to report pictures or words that are concerning. Our obligation to say something far outweighs the desire to be silent. Find someone whom you trust and talk to them, even if you're not sure if what you saw makes sense or not.

We do have emergency plans in place for our school buildings that are consistently updated and we do practice important drills a couple of times each year. It's imperative for all students and staff to make sure their ID badges are on at all times to ensure every person in our school belongs here. The reason why we are so diligent about ID Badges is to ensure the safety of everyone in our school. We are a large school and ID Badges are one really important way for us to quickly assess whether or not someone belongs in our school. Students and staff need to make this a priority, as this is one of several ways to ensure our school is safe.

Please know that as your Head of School your safety is my highest priority. This is our school and together WE can help keep each other safe from harm. Thank you for your attention and I hope each of you takes this message to heart and will continue to act accordingly.

Have a peaceful day.

**Marianne Busteded**  
**Head of School - Lowell High School**