Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act

Dear Parents,

At a recent meeting, School Board Administrators and legal staff explained the impact of new rules and legislation on reporting dangerous student behaviors to the State. We urge you to talk to your students about the consequences of certain behaviors in school, in public, and on social media.

The **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act** requires that every school report to the State any instances of students exhibiting any kind of hostile behavior such as making a threat of harm to one's self, another person, a group, or property. These behaviors must be reported whether or not they are serious or in fun. They include verbal threats and insinuations, physical motions (such as shooting or stabbing motions), phone calls (such as personal or bomb threats), and threats or indications of unstable behavior or mental state in writing (including school assignments).

Furthermore, if the school becomes aware of any of this behavior on any kind of social media, that as well must be reported to the authorities.

The consequences of this reporting include up to a year of mandatory expulsion from school and a state mandated report in the student's records that must remain there permanently.

As you can see, the State of Florida is not taking lightly anything that can be construed as threatening behavior on the part of a student. The School has no leeway in reporting this behavior. We were told point blank that any failure to report incidents of this type would result in the closing of the school. As you can see, our hands are tied.

It is very important that parents explain to their students that fighting or threatening anyone at school is never OK. This behavior must be reported to the State of Florida under law.

If you have any questions regarding this new law, please speak with Ms. Sonberg and she will help explain it further.

Thank you for being great parents and families,

Your Friends at The One Room School House

PARENTS, PLEASE READ