

Sherman County School District



Communication to the Community

Issue #24

From Sherman County
School District
Moro, Oregon

WORKING TOGETHER TO PUT STUDENT SUCCESS FIRST

March 14, 2018

Sherman County Students, Families, Staff, and Community Members,

Today, a small group of students participated in respectful conversations/reflections for seventeen minutes and then peacefully returned to class for the rest of the day's planned instruction. Prior to this walk-out, Angie Totaro, K-12 Counselor, Principal Somnis, and I read a message to all of our students in grades 6-12. This message focused on a safe school where students and teachers feel supported, comfortable, welcome, a place where everyone helps each other, and everyone looks out for each other. We communicated that every person in a school community has the power to use respect, empathy, compassion, kindness, and friendliness to make our school better and to enhance school safety.

As educators, we recognize that student activism and advocacy are a healthy part of the learning process. When students are passionate about an issue, it is important for school staff to help students see the connection between curriculum and real life. Please know that we focused on making sure this was a teachable moment.

During these thoughtful conversations/reflections, it was heartwarming to hear how safe students feel at Sherman County School. It was also wonderful to observe our students advocating respectfully and in an orderly manner for causes that are important to them. We truly thank our students for the way they conducted themselves today while allowing their civic voices to be heard.

We want to remind everyone, that we have qualified and skilled counselors available at all times during the school day to talk to and support students. Another outstanding resource is The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The NASP has information on their website for parents related to school safety, violence prevention, children's trauma reactions, and crisis response at www.nasponline.org. In addition, as stated in my Communication to the Community yesterday, we support Safe Oregon. This resource can be accessed through our District Website at www.shermancountyschooldistrict.weebly.com or at www.safeoregon.com.

As always, the top priority of Sherman County School is to support the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students while maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment for all.

Thank you for your continued support of Sherman County School.

Sincerely,

Wes Owens
Superintendent



SAFEOREGON