

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION

National School Walkout—March 14, 2018

On February 14, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida suffered a horrific shooting that left 17 dead. But, the students of Stoneman Douglas High School refused to let this shooting be the end of their story. They immediately joined together and have been pushing back against the narrative that these shootings are normal, and that we just have to accept them.

On the one month anniversary, schools around the nation joined the students of Stoneman Douglas High School to memorialize their loss and to stand together to prevent this from ever happening again. The Newark Public Schools decided to support the students and staff who wanted to be part of this movement. These are our stories....

#ENOUGH!

**NATIONAL SCHOOL
WALKOUT**

TO END GUN VIOLENCE
— MARCH 14, 2018 —

Letter From The President



John M. Abeigon
President/Director of Organization
Newark Teachers Union

Colleagues,

If one needs any more proof that the Newark Public Schools have returned to local control, one simply needs to look back to the days when our student population was forced to rebel to have their voices heard. When we had outsiders as our Superintendents, they refused to acknowledge the ability of Newark students to possess and articulate their views in organized, peaceful means.

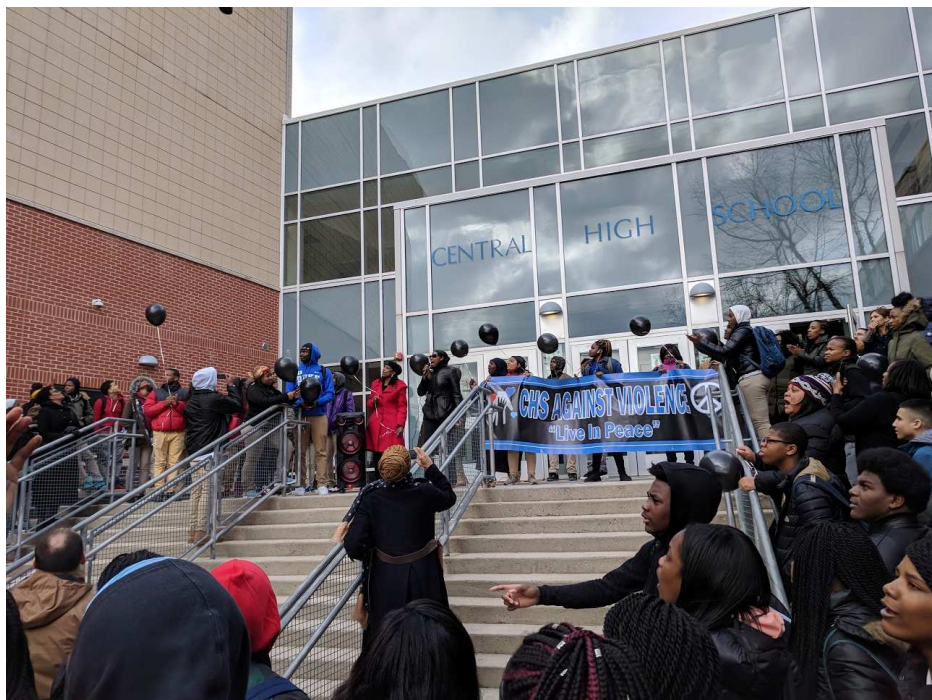
We commend Interim Superintendent Robert Gregory, a Native-Son of Newark, a former teacher and administrator in Newark, for rejecting the notions of his predecessors and showing that he believes in and trusts his employees and students to develop and implement this incredible day of action.

As President of this great Union, my confidence in all of your abilities and passions is reaffirmed by this event. As I have fought to prove for years, the members of the Newark Teachers Union are the greatest members in the country. I am proud of the passion you share with your charges in this troubling time.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John".

Central High School

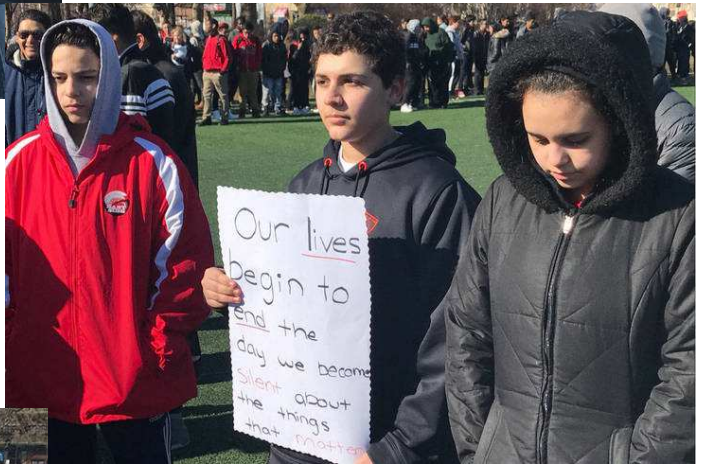


West Side High School

Today at West Side HS in honor of National Gun Violence Awareness Day, we commemorated loved ones that have been lost to senseless gun violence. - Leigh Garwin, Social Worker



East Side High School



Barringer Academy of the Arts and Humanities



PHOTO: Patrick Wall

Students released one balloon for each of the 17 people killed at a high school in Parkland, Florida last month.

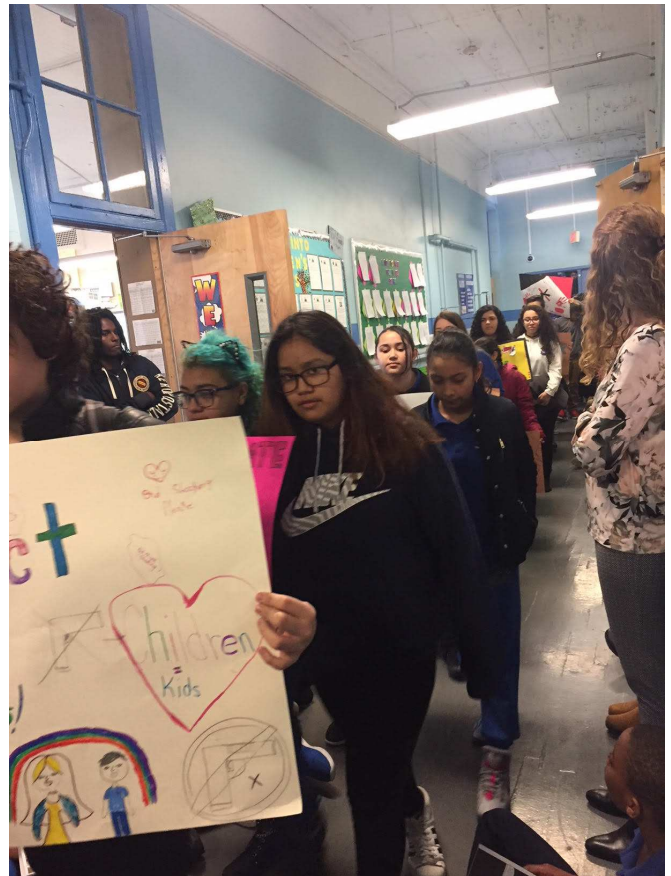
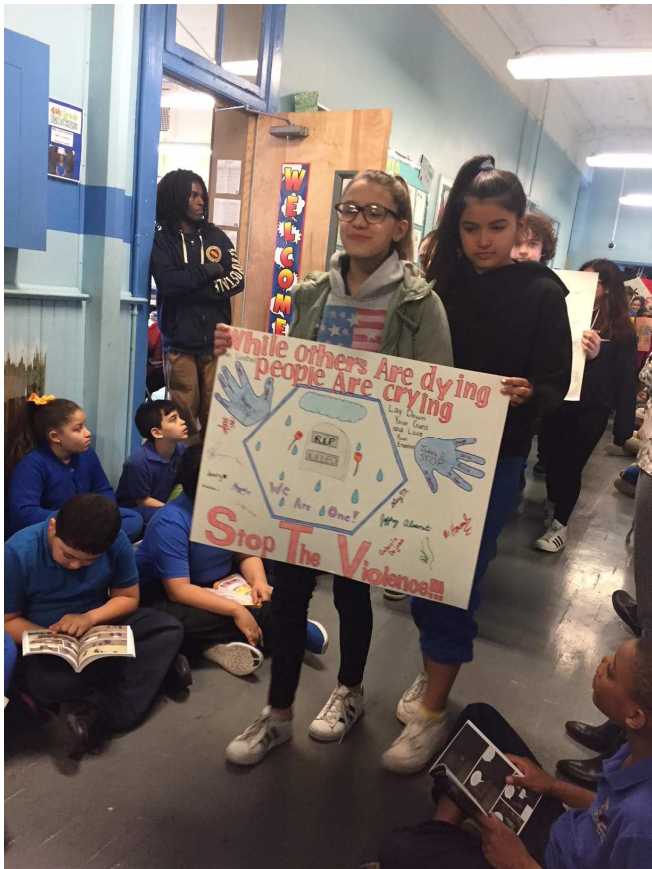
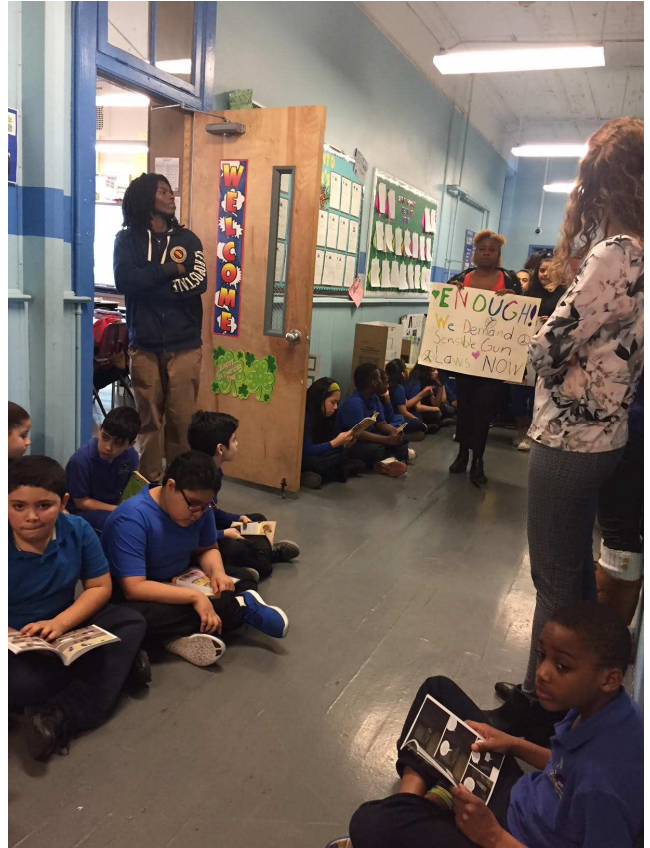
Oliver Street School



Hawkins Street School



Hawkins Street School



Arts High

SURVIVORS' PLEDGE

By Krishna Chaudhuri (Retired teacher)

Because we are young,
You think we aren't strong;
Because we are in school-
You think all of us are fool.

Because we don't earn,
You think we can't get stern;
Because we are underage-
You think we don't have courage.

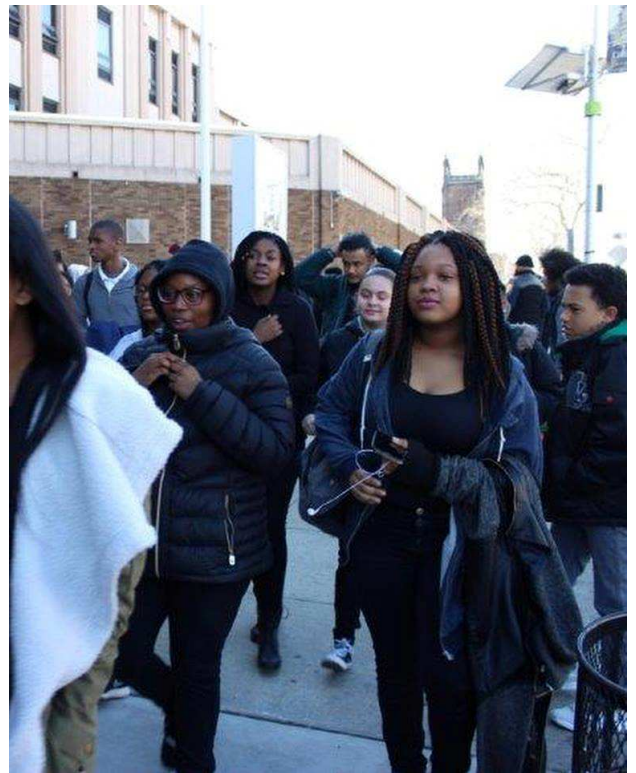
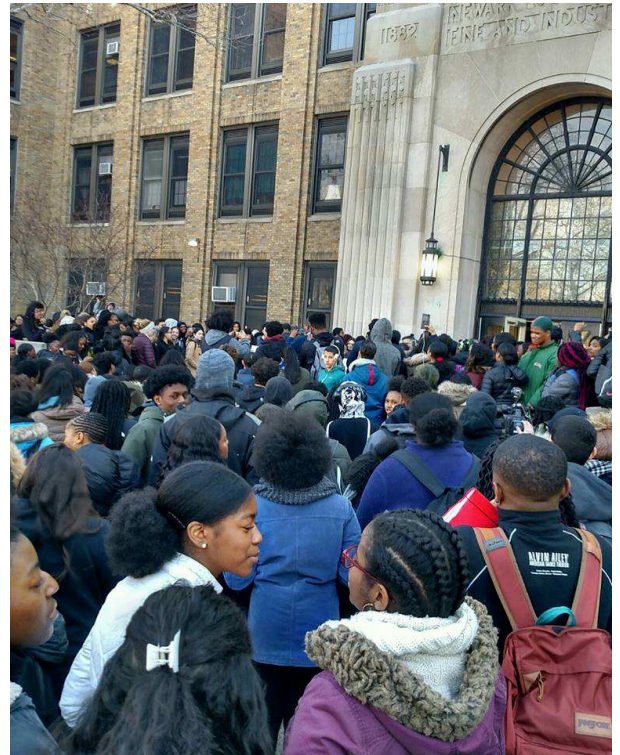
Because of your negligence too many lives are lost,
We promise we will not let you make a profit at our cost;
We are a mixture of all colors and creed-
Black, white, brown, yellow and of special need.

We are more powerful than you can imagine,
No matter how much you support the sale of rifles or magazine;
We don't need money to buy a seat-
At town hall, upper house, lower house or senate.

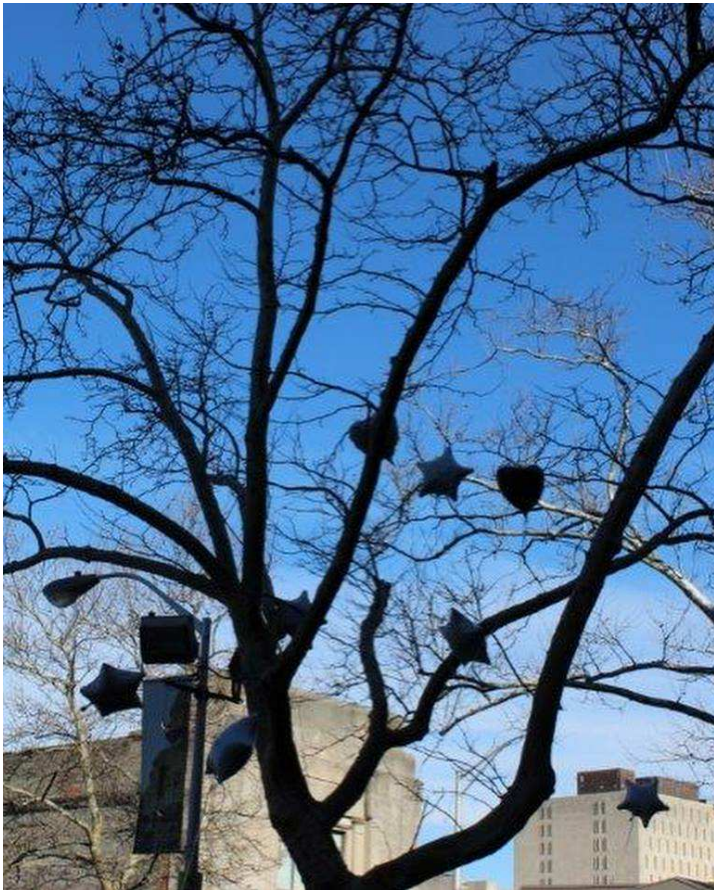
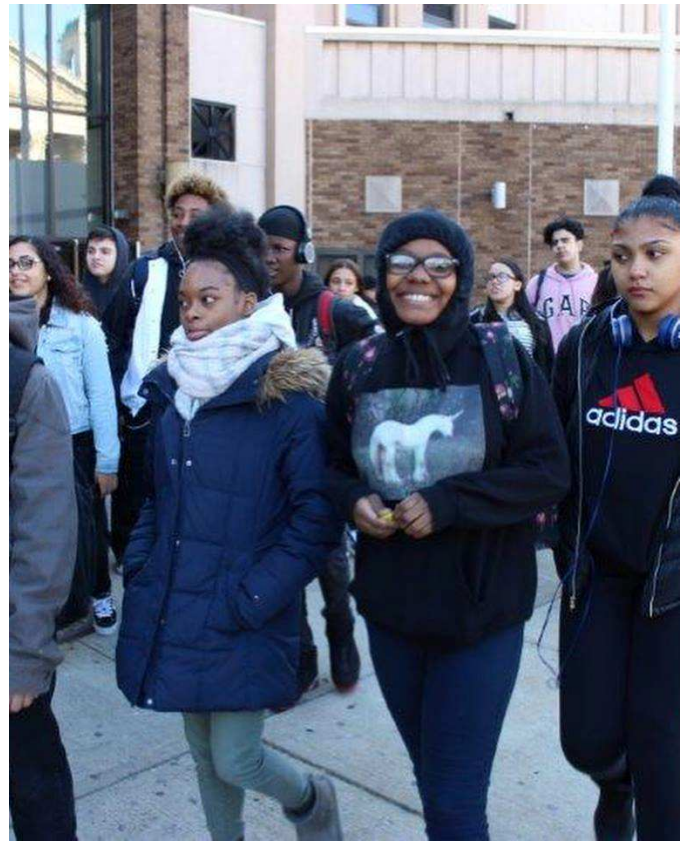
We want to be proud of our country,
Where children don't die from hunger or poverty;
But they die because of neglect of the lawmakers-
Who allow the use of weapon on us.

Now that you have acquired our mistrust so much,
No one in this whole wide world has seen a disgrace as such;
We want to enjoy our childhood and grow up someday-
That is if you let us walk along that way.

Our innocent and malice free hearts' rage will hit you so hard,
It will be the waves of a tsunami that will break iron guard;
If you don't take any action to save us our leaders, dear-
To carry your coffin there will not be any pallbearer.



Arts High



Harriet Tubman School

Students at Harriet Tubman School posted the below Twitter photo of their rally.



Rafael Hernandez Elementary School



Weequahic High School

Today's participation in the National School Walkout demonstrated support for the many voices that continue to call for an end to gun violence and violence in general. Weequahic High School administration team, lead by Mr. Hollis; principal, and supported by staff and students was such a phenomenal contribution as well as a heartfelt endeavor. Most important was the enormous level of student participation. Though many have experienced the lost of a friend or relative to gun violence, I must commend those students in attendance that were able to come forward and share their stories despite the pain, as we all can testify such tragedies are quite difficult to forget or talk about.

Like many of my colleagues I too have lost students to gun violence. I also join Weequahic students who continue to grieve for friends, and family members that were taken away through senseless acts of violence. My family and I have lost nephews to gun violence and a brother who was murdered. Hats off to our Weequahic High School administration team for their sincere effort to provide an opportunity for students to participate within a worthwhile cause. I am certain words shared this morning did not fall on deaf ears.

Dr. Baseemah Jumuah, Ed.D
Special Education Teacher
Weequahic High School

Abington Avenue School



Belmont Runyon



University High School



Spencer Miller Community School

Students from 6th-8th grade "Joined Hands Against Violence." Students walked out of class in 2 different locations at school and during the 17 minute silence they wrote messages, created a slogan along with artwork on paper in complete silence. The Honchos, Positive Action leaders glued them on to construction paper to create a quilt which represents, We all have the right to live free from fear and violence in our community. The quilt was hung at the entrance of our school. — Darline Jamison, Teacher



Technology High School

At Technology High School, NTU Secretary Treasurer Michael Iovino, coordinated with the administrators to create a somber yet poignant event attended by all staff and students.

All gathered in the empty parking lot where 17 empty seats were set up to represent the 17 that were senselessly and tragically killed in Florida. A student or staff member read a brief bio of each of the dead and called for a moment of silence for each.

Michael Iovino closed out the event passionately, reminding each student of the need to embrace diversity, support each other, speak to the unspoken to, and importantly, to be agents of change..



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