

Hawk's Eye View

West Middle Community Students Walk Out on Gun Violence

Students left class at 10:00 am local time for 17 minutes — one minute for each victim in the February 14 attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. 8th grade students stood in a circle outside the front of West Middle Community School on March 14th. They waited silently while the name of each student that lost their life was read aloud. Then the students participated in a discussion on violence in schools and how to prevent peer isolation.

"I think the walkout was a good way to let the world know we care and that this type of thing should not happen. Also it felt good inside to respect those who lost their lives" Rodney Foote, age 13

"I liked the walk out because we can be the voices of the ones that died in the Parkland School shooting and it's helping us be stronger and makes us treat our lives not like an emergency, but with a sense of urgency". Exodus Blake, age 14

"The walk out we did was something special because I felt a sadness come upon me. Why were those lives taken? they were almost the same age as me. They have people that care about them and now they are gone far away for those who thought they were special. This massacre and walk out made me think about how we should put an end to assault guns. What do we have to do for our government to see we want an end to assault guns". Mary-Jane Kelensi, age 12

"I felt like the walk out was very powerful and showed our understanding. We are showing respect for the people who lost their lives". Cameron Kennedy, age 15

"During the walkout I felt powerful. The eight graders got to take a stand for the first time against violence along with the high schools". Deajha Brown, age 15.

Students and faculty will not forget the day that they were apart of a national movement. Social activism begins now. Photos are available at
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Rr7XETyGT0wnd1AV2>

Submitted by
Nicole Rodriguez
Director of Volunteer Resources
West Middle Community School
Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford, Inc.