



# FERGUSON-FLORISSANT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## **Administration Center**

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December 2, 2014

Dear Ferguson-Florissant Students and Families,

Earlier today, students at each of the three high schools in the Ferguson-Florissant School District engaged in peaceful protests in response to recent events in Ferguson. The protests were student-led and monitored by school administrators and staff as well as local law enforcement to ensure students' safety.

At around 8:15 a.m., approximately 300 to 400 students at McCluer High School and 150 to 200 students at McCluer North High School participated in peaceful demonstrations.

The students at McCluer High School initially gathered in the school's commons area (the "Hub"). The students gathered peacefully in the school and some students spoke. At 9:55 a.m., about 300 students walked out of the school down South Waterford Drive toward McCluer North High School. School staff walked with the group of students. Florissant police were aware of the protests and stood by as the students demonstrated.

The students at McCluer North High School initially assembled on the school's track then walked past the District Administration building next to the school and across Waterford Drive to the James J. Eagan Center. The students held signs and chanted slogans. In the interest of safety, school administrators and teachers accompanied the students as they walked. The students then returned to the McCluer North campus, and the majority of the students who participated in the demonstration re-entered the school.

When a group of approximately 200 McCluer High School students reached the McCluer North High School campus on Waterford Drive, the group assembled peacefully in front of the school and continued to protest alongside a number of McCluer North students.

The District dispatched transportation to pick up the McCluer students from McCluer North. Some students chose to walk and were monitored by District staff and administrators as they made their way back to McCluer High School.

At approximately 11:15 a.m., approximately 150-200 students at McCluer South-Berkeley High School peacefully demonstrated by walking out of the school and traveled north along South Florissant Road. The students, accompanied by the school principal and other school staff, traveled north to Walgreens on

Florissant Rd. District buses transported students back to the school.

We understand our students' desire to speak out on the issues raised by recent events in the city of Ferguson, and have prepared our principals and teachers to facilitate productive classroom discussions on these topics if needed. However, students are not permitted to leave school grounds during the day. **Please discuss with your children the risks associated with leaving school grounds where we cannot assure their safety or know their whereabouts. Students need to understand that regardless of the situation or number of students involved, our District's discipline code applies. In addition, it is important for students to keep in mind that as we near semester final exams, every class period is vital to their academic success.**

Our District is committed to maintaining a safe learning and working environment in all of our schools and buildings. We want to assure you that we are working diligently to maintain that commitment in these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,



Lawrence W. Larrew  
Acting Superintendent