

Independent School Heads in the Greater Washington, D.C. Area and Maryland Speak Out Against Gun Violence

The horrific school shooting in Parkland, Florida, has led students, teachers, and school leaders to speak out forcefully against gun violence. Students - children - who have experienced this trauma and loss first-hand are showing the way. As adults and as educators, it is our time to lead. With those student activists and with their grieving families, we too say, "Never Again!"

For years now, citizens of the United States have endured mass shootings, in public venues, neighborhoods and communities, houses of worship, colleges and universities, and our schools. Children, our most vulnerable citizens and our hope for the future, are dying from gun violence, again and again.

Statistics from countries around the globe show that it is possible to minimize gun deaths through common-sense legislation. Here in the United States, we see that easy access to weapons, particularly those of military-style design, results in significantly higher levels of gun violence.

We urge our President, our Congress, and our state leaders to enact specific, vigorous measures to reduce gun violence in our society, particularly in our schools. We need a robust system of registration and background checks, with a particular eye toward weapons capable of rapidly firing a vast number of deadly shots. We need stronger mental health services and more effective communication among agencies responsible for the well-being of children, adults, and families. What we do not need is to arm our teachers with guns, which is dangerous and antithetical to our profession as educators.

As school leaders, we call upon everyone who cares about the education and the welfare of children to urge our government to act. We need our teachers to be able to teach. We need our students to be able to learn. And we need everyone in every school around the country to feel safe.

Our school communities represent multiple political parties and occupy different positions on the spectrum from liberal to conservative. Our schools are secular and religious, small and large, urban, rural, and suburban. We serve a range of children, from nursery through grade twelve. Our calling is to serve and to educate children, to ensure their safety and well-being, and to help them grow into thoughtful and responsible citizens. Please let us do our work. Please act now with vigor, determination, and urgency, on behalf of our nation's children.

Respectfully,

Heads of Schools (listed alphabetically by school)

The Academy of the Holy Cross	Kathleen Prebble	Loyola Blakefield	Anthony Day
Aidan Montessori School	Kevin Clark	The Madeira School	Pilar Cabeza de Vaca
Alef Bet Montessori School	Ellie Lichtash	Maret School	Marjo Talbott
Alpert Family Aleph Bet Jewish Day School	Sarah White	Maryvale Preparatory School	Tracey H. Ford
Archbishop Spalding High School	Kathleen K. Mahar	Mater Dei School	William McMurtrie
Baltimore Lab School	Dr. Steven Buettner	McDonogh School	Charles Britton
Barrie School	Dr. Jonathan Kidder	McLean School	Michael Saxenian
Beauvoir, The National Cathedral Elementary School	Michael Eanes	Mercersburg Academy	Katherine Titus
Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community School	Dr. Zipora Schorr	Mercy High School	Mary Beth Lennon
Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys	James R. Woody	Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation's Capital	Naomi Reem
Bishop McNamara High School	Dr. Marco J. Clark	Montessori School of Westminster	Jodi Lupco
The Boys' Latin School of Maryland	Christopher Post	Mount Saint Joseph High School	George Andrews, Jr.
Browne Academy	Peggy Otey	National Cathedral School	Kathleen O'Neill Jamieson
The Bryn Mawr School	Sue Sadler	National Presbyterian School	Malcolm Lester
Bullis School	Dr. Gerald L. Boarman	The Nora School	Dave Mullen
Burgundy Farm Country Day School	Jeff Sindler	Norwood School	Matthew Gould, Ph.D.
Butler Montessori	Laura Manack	Notre Dame Preparatory School	Patricia McCarron, SSND, Ph.D.
Calvert Hall College High School	Br. John Kane, FSC, Ed.D.	The Odyssey School	Marty Sweeney
Calvert School	Andrew Holmgren	Oldfields School	Ansley Smithwick
Capitol Hill Day School	Jason Gray	Our Lady of Good Counsel High School	Dr. Paul Barker
The Catholic High School of Baltimore	Dr. Barbara D. Nazelrod	The Park School of Baltimore	Daniel Paradis
Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School	Rabbi Mitchel Malkus	The Potomac School	John Kowalik
Christ Episcopal School	Dr. Caroline Chapin	The Primary Day School	Scott Lawrence
Commonwealth Academy	Matt Johns	Radcliffe Creek School	Molly Judge
Concord Hill School	James Carroll	The River School	Nancy Mellon
Congressional School	Janet Marsh	Roland Park Country School	Caroline Blatti
Connelly School of the Holy Child	Dr. Shannon Gomez	Saint Andrew's United Methodist Day School	Mark Wagner
The Country School	Neil Mufson	Saint James School	Rev. Dr. D. Stuart Dunnan
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School	Dr. William Heiser	Sandy Spring Friends School	Thomas Gibian
The Diener School	Dr. Noreen Buchanan	Severn School	Doug Lagarde
Edmund Burke School	Damian Jones	Sheridan School	Jessica Donovan
Episcopal High School	Charley Stillwell	Sidwell Friends School	Bryan Garman, Ph.D.
Evergreen School	John DeMarchi	Sisters Academy of Baltimore	Delia M. Dowling, SSND
The Field School	Dale Johnson	St. Albans School	Vance Wilson
Flint Hill School	John M. Thomas	St. Andrew's Episcopal School	Robert Kosasky
Foxcroft School	Cathy McGehee	St. Anne's School of Annapolis	Lisa Nagel
Friends Community School	Larry Clements	St. Anselm's Abbey School	William T. Crittenberger
Friends Meeting School	Mara Nicastro	St. Columba's Nursery School	Julia Berry
Friends School of Baltimore	Matthew Micciche	St. Ignatius Loyola Academy	John Ciccone
Garrison Forest School	Lila Boyce Lohr	St. James Academy	Maureen Walsh
Georgetown Day School	Russell Shaw	St. John's Episcopal School	Thomas R. Stevens
Georgetown Preparatory School	Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.	St. John's College High School	Jeffrey Mancabelli
Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School	Daniel Kerns	St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School	Jamey Hein
Gilman School	Henry Smyth	St. Martin's Lutheran School	James Moorhead
Glenelg Country School	Gregory Ventre	St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School	Peter Barrett
Gonzaga College High School	Rev. Stephen W. Planning, S.J.	St. Paul's School	David Faus
Grace Episcopal Day School	Jennifer Danish	St. Paul's School for Girls	Penny B. Ewins
Green Acres School	Dr. Neal M. Brown	St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School	Kirsten Prettyman Adams
Green Hedges School	Robert Gregg	St. Timothy's School	Randy Stevens
The GreenMount School	Liz Baker	Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart	Catherine Karrels
Greenspring Montessori School	Tamara Sheesley Balis	Trinity School, Inc.	Sister Catherine Phelps
The Gunston School	John Lewis, IV	Waldorf School of Baltimore	Pat Whitehead
The Harbor School	Andrea Zuraf	Washington Episcopal School	Danny Vogelmann
Harford Day School	Dr. Gray Smith	Washington International School	Clayton Lewis
The Heights School	Alvaro de Vicente	Washington Jesuit Academy	William Whitaker
The Highlands School	Dr. Philip Piercy	The Washington School for Girls	Beth Reaves
Holton-Arms School	Susanna Jones	Washington Waldorf School	Jennifer Page
Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School	Michael Mullin	West Nottingham Academy	Dr. Thomas J. Banks
Indian Creek School	Dr. Rick Branson	Westminster School	Ellis Glover
Institute of Notre Dame	Christine Szala	The Wilkes School at Grace & St. Peter's	Patricia Barry
Jemicy School	Ben Shifrin	The Woods Academy	Joseph Powers
Kent School	Nancy Mugele	Wye River Upper School	Chrissy M. Aull
The Key School	Matthew Nespole		
The Kingsbury Center	Dr. Dennis Campbell		
Krieger Schechter Day School	Rabbi Moshe Schwartz		
The Lab School of Washington	Katherine Schantz		
Landon School	Jim Neill		
The Langley School	Elinor Scully		
Little Folks School	James Gilroy		
Loudoun Country Day School	E. Randall Hollister, Ph.D.		
Lowell School	Debbie Gibbs		