



Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Dear Changemaker Parents and Families,

At Changemaker High School we believe that education should be a tool to prepare our students to face the challenges of the day. We encourage them to identify problems, to seek creative solutions, and to create action that will lead to long-term transformative change. This belief is at the core of our programming, our instruction, and our engagement in the community. The individuals most responsible for guiding our students through this process of transformative thinking and action are our teachers. They are the backbone of our institution and their hard work and dedication is the foundation for all that we have been able to accomplish.

As you may be aware, Arizona teachers across the state are considering potential action to support the Red for Ed movement. Red for Ed is happening in an effort to obtain more overall funding for schools. (Teacher pay is a small part of the movement.) We have seen increasing discussion of these issues by our teachers and, of course, we support these conversations. The actions proposed by the Red for Ed movement could include a walkout that could impact our school days.

As a public charter school, we cannot use our resources to influence elections or political discussion. We also cannot hand out literature to students that advocates for or against legislation. In addition, let me emphasize that we are very cognizant about acting in a way that would discourage employees from having, discussing, and expressing their opinions about Red for Ed, or from taking concerted action in support of their views. However, if we have too few staff members to safely hold school, we may be forced to close school for that day. Please consider that you may want to arrange alternative student supervision in the event that our school is forced to close.

If we are unable to hold school, parents and guardians will receive a phone call and/or email (if provided to the school) with school closure information. This information will also be shared on the school website as well as at the school site and updates will be made continuously on social media (Facebook) and via our text messenger system. Be assured that we will do everything we can to provide you with as much information as possible.

I feel that we are a community of staff who are here because we love teaching and love our students. And ultimately, we are here for our students and community. Please let me know if you have any questions or want to talk about this further. Thank you for your dedication to our students and community.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Perales, M.S.
Chief Executive Officer
Inst. for Transformative Education
Changemaker High School

