

EDITOR'S LETTER

■ YOUR FREEDOM
OF SPEECH. OUR
RESPONSIBILITY.



March 14 marks one year after you had the choice: to walkout or not. March 14 marks one year since students at Rock Canyon began to learn about their fundamental first amendment rights. A month before this anniversary, Denver Public School teachers walked out over their pay. A student from East High School recorded and photographed the strike around his school, after the larger media was barred from the school. The student was given a choice from the administration: stop filming inside the school or leave.

YOUR RIGHTS

Colorado, luckily, has more student free expression rights than most other states. The rule generally for Colorado high school is that free speech is accepted in schools if it isn't: libelous, slanderous, defamatory, or disruptive to the school day. To simplify those rules; your speech cannot destroy a person's reputation, or spread falsities about others. The main factor in student free speech is that it does not significantly disrupt the school day. In Rock Canyon, we are fortunate enough to have an administration that protects to student free speech, especially with the walkout March 14, 2018.



Hailey Mosteller '18 holds up a sign reading 'Protect Kids, Not Guns,' during the walkout for Parkland March 14. The walkout lasted 17 minutes, for the 17 lives taken at the Parkland school shooting in FL Feb 14. Photo by: A. Brauchler

OUR JOB

The Rock also has this responsibility to conform to these rules for student free expression. We are determined to uphold these rules and also support the free expression rights of our student body. We also want to defend the rights of the student journalists around us, including the student from East High School. It is imperative that we not only actively use our first amendment rights, but also educate ourselves on our rights. We have to stand up for freedom of speech injustices against our peers.

POWERFUL INFORMATION

The Student Press Law Center represents students (including the student from East High School). Their website has information about students' rights and resources if your rights have been violated. splc.org