

DAY of SILENCE[®]

www.dayofsilence.org

Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence (DOS), a national youth movement bringing attention to the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies. My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by anti-LGBT bullying, name-calling and harassment. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward building awareness and making a commitment to address these injustices. Think about the voices you are not hearing today.

What are you going to do to end the Silence?



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**Here's what you can do to help end the
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PLEDGE OF SILENCE for MARCH 1, 2013:

I choose to participate in the national student-led event called Day of Silence in order to show my support for all who feel that they must remain silent about who they are because of prejudice and discrimination, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and transgender people.

I vow to wear the Speaking Card and remain silent from 8:00 AM until at least 12:25 PM. I understand, however, that if a teacher asks me to speak I cannot refuse.

I vow to observe the Day of Silence and take my participation in it seriously.

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RULES FOR PARTICIPATION IN DAY OF SILENCE –

Jordan M.S., Mar. 1, 2013

1. You must pre-register and sign the Silent Pledge to participate.
2. You must wear the Speaking Card visibly pinned to the front of your clothing so that everyone can easily see it.
3. You are to maintain silence when you come on campus, in passing, at brunch (and maybe lunch), and in class, EXCEPT:
4. If a teacher asks you to speak in connection with a class activity, you CANNOT refuse.
5. No duck tape or other masking across your mouth or face is permitted.
6. Sign language or writing to communicate is okay.
7. Please don't talk in recess or brunch or lunch! When you're wearing the Speaking Card, remember why you're doing it and keep your pledge.
Speaking to other badge wearers DOES count as speaking. If non-participants see you wearing your badge and speaking, they'll have reason to make fun of DOS. You must take your commitment seriously.
8. Meet with all other DOS participants in Hugh Center Court at 12:20 for breaking the silence. We'll wait until everyone has gathered in a big circle, do a silent countdown, and then cheer together. If you are REALLY good at this, hold out until 2:55 and come to HCC for a second breaking of the silence!

Any questions, please come see Dr. Smith.

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Any questions, please come see Dr. Smith.



PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
JORDAN MIDDLE SCHOOL • 750 N. California Avenue • Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 494-8120 FAX: (650) 858-1310
Gregory Barnes, Principal

April 16th, 2013

Re: Request for Public Records: Day of Silence

Dear Mr. Snider,

Enclosed please find the documents requested regarding the Day of Silence held on March 1st, 2013. This event is sponsored by the Student Gay-Straight Alliance Club (GSA). Dr. Jeannie Smith is the supervisor for said club.

Sincerely,

Gregory Barnes
Principal, Jordan Middle School
Palo Alto, CA 94303
650-544-6262

Here's a reminder about our DAY OF SILENCE activity taking place this Friday, March 1. Today in class I heard one boy ask another if he was doing it, and when he said yes, the first said, "Uh huh, me too; it's fabulous." When I asked him to tell me in his own words what it's about, he said, "It's all about solidarity with people who feel like they can't be who they really are in public."

DAY OF SILENCE -

Founded in 1996, this national event was started by students to bring attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying, and harassment that happens in schools. It has become the largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools for all, with hundreds of thousands participating. Jordan's GSA has often had students participating over the years; it was a loosely organized event for several years, but became more structured for at least the last four years when we started doing NIOS week, and has grown to 100s of participants.

Students are required to pre-register the day before, so that they will hear the rules for participation and receive the official badge. They'll come to E-6 right at the beginning of Thursday lunch and then go to HCC for the Open Mic event.

Rules for Friday: They wear the badge prominently, so that it's clear they are participating. No duck tape or scotch tape on mouths allowed. They are silent throughout the day, including brunch, passing, and maybe lunch; however, if they are asked to speak in class for instructional reasons, they may not refuse. Teachers may acknowledge the day and what it stands for, but please don't single out participants or give them any special reward. We will have a breaking of silence at the very beginning of lunch in Hugh Center Court, followed by an open mic for participants to share thoughts and reflections on the day. Then there will be another breaking silence at 3:00 PM for those who really want to stay the course for the whole day.

If you want to read more about DOS and its history, go here:

<http://www.dayofsilence.org/index.cfm>

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) Have a question? Want to know more? Just check out answers to some common questions about the Day of Silence [here](#).

Or read the FOUR TRUTHS about the Day of Silence [here](#).

Here's what students will read and sign on Thursday:

PLEDGE OF SILENCE for MARCH 1, 2013:

I choose to participate in the national student-led event called Day of Silence in order to show my support for all who feel that they must remain silent about who they are because of prejudice and discrimination, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and transgender people; differently-abled people; and those who feel silenced because of religion or ethnicity.

I vow to wear the Speaking Card and remain silent from 8:00 AM until 12:20 PM or 3:00 PM. I understand, however, that if a teacher asks me to speak I cannot refuse.

I vow to observe the Day of Silence and take my participation in it seriously.

They will also be given a copy of the Rules and their badge.

I will go over all of this with them on Thursday. If students ask you about it, you can answer them and/or you can send them to me. On Friday, if you see students talking while wearing a badge, you might gently tap on their badge to remind them of their pledge. It's a tough challenge for some students-- some only last a period or two, while others manage the whole day. However long they last, it's great to see their good intentions, that they understand what it's about, and they support each other in the effort. By the same token, if you see anyone harassing a badge-wearer, please ask them to stop; some students have reported being taunted by people trying to get them to talk...

And please let me know if you have any questions I haven't answered here. :-)

Jeanie