

We Will Be Heard

Students Fighting for Healing and Accountability

(This document will be updated as information comes in so keep checking for updates)

A message from your Wildcats

Please lift us up and stand with us as we find our voices and learn to advocate for our needs

The ***WE WILL BE HEARD*** rally is a student-led movement that will occur at 10:30 a.m. on November 21st. Please help spread the word in any way that you can

The students are asking for 3 things:

1. We need healing, we have not been provided the type of critical incident trauma recovery services that we were required to receive and instead we've been told not to talk about it, we've been silenced. We want to speak up, and we want the right to heal.
2. We want a memorial. A real one. At the school, placed where we want it. Without the interference of administration, the board, or anyone involved/responsible for Nov. 30th. With the images of Hana, Tate, Madisyn, and Justin. Their faces are not our triggers. They will always be remembered.
3. The persons named in the independent investigation as having failed to do their job which resulted in deaths and trauma to us as students should not be in our building or employed in our district. Their presence is causing extreme duress and they must be removed.

IMPORTANT: There are educated people at the head of this and we are doing our best to make sure the community has all the information they need. It was started and will be lead by a student. **For clarification:** the only people being asked to resign are board members Erin Reis, Colleen Schultz, Heather Shafer, and Mary Hanser, and district employees Steven Wolf and Hopkins. We are not going after any other administrators or school employees. We are pro teacher and education and are doing everything in our power to support and love them.

As community members, the students are asking for your help in getting the word out and for you to allow your student to participate in this event

We have worked hard to be diligent and responsible with an emphasis on safety and healing and are working with the School and the Sheriff's Office and have consulted with leading mental health professionals who specialize in traumatic event recovery to make sure that this event is centered around the well being of the students.

First and foremost, please remember that we are children and we have experienced significant trauma and disruption in our lives. Be kind, we are trying to be successful and are learning to move forward one step at a time.

As students, we feel that our voices, needs, and feelings have been silenced and dismissed. We feel as though the fears and thoughts of others become the responsibility of the children and we feel that they are manifested onto us. We know you want to protect us, but sometimes it's our own voices that just need to *Be Heard*.

Here are some important points that reflect the work we've put into this rally, to provide safety and peace.

1. We are working with the school and law enforcement and with all the right people to make sure it's being done safely and correctly. Safety and unity are of the utmost importance!
2. We are NOT leaving the school campus - we are NOT intermixing with the community. We are walking out of the school and want to see our parents and community cheering us on and uplifting us from the area of Oxford Road that runs along the highschool. We heard the community is working on getting us something hot to eat and specially screened parents and community members will be setting up a food area for us, most likely near the sports gates. This is so wonderful, **Thank you!** Keep in mind that safety is of the utmost importance, so the staging area may change based on input from the school and Sheriff's Office pending further discussion.
3. We know that our education is important and we have put a lot of effort into planning this event so that a majority of it falls within the lunch period which is 4th hour. We are working very hard to minimize disruption and will be returning back to class after the student leaders read their statement to press and get something to eat.
4. We are asking to be uplifted and supported while WE read OUR statement. We are not speaking for you, we are not speaking for anyone other than ourselves. We are simply asking for the opportunity to speak up for OURSELVES, an opportunity that's been withheld from us for far too long. Supporting and uplifting us does not mean you have to agree with us. We only need you to agree that we should be supported as we explain what WE feel WE need most right now as students with the desire to heal and get our lives back.
5. Each anniversary of November 30th is incredibly difficult and a lot of us relive what we experienced. After the release of the investigation many students were pulled straight back to the feelings and emotions of Nov. 30th but we were met with nothing but essays and tests. It's difficult after receiving so much support from the community directly after, to be in such a difficult place now with little light being shed on our pain. We have had two really rough years, I think we can all agree on that. Help give us courage and show what it means to be Oxford Strong by showing students *"If YOU need this, then I will listen and ensure you are given the opportunity to be heard"*

Your smiles, some encouraging signs, your cheering, your ears to listen and your hearts open to love are what we most need from you right now. **Will you please give the children what we need?**

6. The plan is to work with the sheriff's office to handle where you can park. We will try to make it easy and safe. There will still be access to and from the school, we're just asking for people to be patient for an hour. It's only an hour, if traffic slows down a bit in that area. Once we get input from the sheriff's Office will let everyone know how that's being handled. We're just kids, we will let the adults handle that part. We have football games and other events where we have many many cars and we seem to handle that just fine. So I think if we work together it will be just fine. We know we can count on our parents and community to be safe, courteous and find solutions especially with the assistance and leadership of the sheriff.

7. The PRESS will NOT be allowed to be In the general vicinity in front of the school and will be directed to an appropriate staging area where they can observe and document the community support and the students standing together fighting for their right to heal, without being up close and without being able to approach students. Again, the specific location and setup will be determined after consulting with the school and the Sheriff's Office because as we said, we are kids and we have asked the adults to handle that.

8. The student leaders will go to the press area and read their statement. The press will not approach students.

9. We expect that the parent volunteers who are setting up food and ensuring we are safe and helping with logistics would appreciate some help, so please reach out to Amanda at (248)856-5361 if you would like to volunteer or would like to contribute for food. For safety reasons we are ensuring all food comes from restaurants and grocery stores and is being coordinated by trusted community members. Please don't be offended if they don't accept home baked goods.

10. It would be great if the community brought some coats or blankets we could borrow, or even donate when we are done. We may not have an opportunity to get our costs and we tend to not dress warm enough regardless of the weather or the heads up and it may be really cold. we're going to try and work with the school to see if there's a way we can get coats but having some jackets and/or blankets would be really great, especially if they can be donated afterwards. That way we don't have to worry about how we are going to get them back to you.

11. We have consulted with mental health and crisis recovery experts and feel we have developed an event that will build confidence, resiliency, and mutual support. We are asking for the sheriff's office to not use flashing lights or any other strong law enforcement presence. Students know what kind of trigger these things can be, and the student leaders have made sure that law enforcement understands the significance of making sure that there are no lights, sirens, or intentional loud noises.

12. Remember that this is a student-led event, be careful and aware of your criticism and negative comments as we are already struggling and are doing something we feel we need to do. We don't want to fight against the community. If you have constructive comments and input

we encourage you to share it with us. If you have concerns, just ask. We want to work with you and put you at peace about the happenings of the rally.

And we ask that you:

Don't speculate...

Don't project your fears into us...

Don't be inflammatory...

Don't say things you don't know...

Don't speak for your children...

That you be kind ...

That you be supportive...

That you encourage instead of discourage

That you find ways to say yes, instead of no

And in return, we will show empathy and acceptance, we will not ridicule anyone for not coming out of the highschool, and we are asking that those who do are also not ridiculed. Each of us should be free to do what we feel is best for us, and for some, this rally is the only form of being heard or an attempt at healing and justice that students have felt in years, we need this.

Will you help us pass the word through the community?