

One Year Later

Olivia Lloyd | Copy Editor
pl229501@ahschool.com

The mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School [MSD] Feb. 14 of last year marked a turning point in many people's lives. A year later, a host of changes have taken place in response to the shock of the massacre that occurred.

The Saturday following the shooting, Heritage students held a rally on Broward Boulevard as an early part of the March for Our Lives movement. Two months after the shooting, gun reform advocates working with MSD students staged nationwide protests from Parkland to Washington, D.C.

Another new addition to the school was the Advocating for Change Today (ACT) club, founded by seniors Amy Haft and Jacob Mass shortly after the shooting.

Haft and Mass founded the club with the intent of creating a space for "students who wanted to speak out after the Stoneman Douglas shooting," Haft said. The first major event the club held was the walkout on the anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting, which

took place April 20, 1999. students from American Heritage and Stoneman Douglas gave speeches.

A year later, though, as the shooting becomes more past than present, the ACT club has evolved. "We trans-

"After the MSD shooting, I felt really devastated and helpless. I've seen some of [my friends from Stoneman Douglas] have panic attacks or anxiety issues they didn't have before the shooting. It's been really rough to see that. In general, I try to be there for them whenever I can and stay in contact."

— Senior Jacob Mass

formed it into a grassroots program to teach high schoolers to get involved in politics," Haft said. "I do think that a lot of students are starting to lose interest. It's going out of their minds, and they have other priorities rather than

getting involved in politics in their community."

Beginning the 2018-19 year, administration completed numerous updates to campus security. The updates include adding two armed police officers on campus, 15 additional security staff members, a reinforced perimeter fence and a security and surveillance office, to name a few. These updates alone cost approximately \$1.095 million.

Part of administration's plan included adopting clear backpacks, something that MSD administration also instituted in the wake of the shooting but discontinued for the 2018-19 year. When MSD adopted the clear backpacks policy, its decision sparked protest from many students, who felt the backpacks were an invasion of privacy and an ineffective means to protect them from students who attempt to bring weapons on campus.

Although less visible, one lasting effect on Heritage students, not to mention Douglas students, has been their emotional state post-shooting and the attempt to find a new normal.

As the one-year anniversary passes, the effects of the MSD shooting continue to manifest. The local community and national public still attempt to process and respond to what has occurred, resulting in the Never Again movement.

(Photo/ TIME Magazine)



Feb. 14, 2018
Shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas leads to activists emerging around the nation.

(Photos/ Amy Haft, ACT Club)



March 2018
Seniors Jacob Mass and Amy Haft create ACT Club (Advocating for Change Today) to sponsor more activism from teens.

April 20, 2018
ACT Club holds the Columbine Rally to give a voice to student activists.

Jan. 2019
Marjory Stoneman Douglas introduced an ongoing memorial outside of the school.



(Photo/Olivia Lloyd)

(Graphics/Bella Ramirez)

(Photo/Emma Gellman)