

Title: Student Voices Rise

Subhead: Student-led walkout takes place during the school day to speak out against ICE.

Reported by: Kora Smith

On Tuesday, Jan 27, students gathered on the football field to protest ICE at the beginning of fourth hour. An estimated 100 to 200 students skipped class to attend the protest and were instead counted unverified for the class period.

“I have a voice, so I want to use that voice to speak up for the people in detention centers who have been stripped of their voices and their right to stand up for themselves,” senior Macey Magera said.

Students gathered with megaphones, homemade signs and chanted “ICE out now.” The signs read phrases such as “Love thy neighbor” and “Melt ICE.” Other local high schools, like Staley High School and North Kansas City High School, have also held anti-ICE protests this January.

“I believe that these unmonitored acts against our neighbors and the limitation of free speech will spiral and go down in history, and I want to be on the right side of it,” senior Kate Ornelas said.

The Instagram account, “lhswalkout2026,” encouraged students to join the walkout. The account advised students to dress warmly and be respectful of the school grounds. The leaders of the walkout, seniors Orian Middleton and Kellyn Graham, collected signs from the walkout and will be donating them to the LNHS walkout taking place on Feb. 2.