



Pleasantville Public Schools

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Dear Pleasantville Public Schools Community,

We are heartbroken to hear of the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. Our thoughts and prayers are with the members of the Uvalde community. The safety of our students and staff is always the top priority in our District. We take seriously our responsibility to ensure the safety of our school community every day. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all of our families that we have plans in place at each of our schools to handle emergency situations. We work with the Pleasantville police and fire departments to prepare for emergencies and practice our safety procedures with students and staff throughout the school year.

Today we met as an administrative team to discuss ways we can increase our school security, several ways were identified, implemented, and shared with staff. We also have a collaborative relationship with the Pleasantville Police Department and currently have two School Resource Officers working within the District daily, two more will be joining us in September for the 2022-2023 school year. Additionally, we have been working diligently throughout the school year to address much needed security equipment upgrades and installations and have major projects planned for completion by September.

Our Pleasantville families also play an important role in ensuring the safety of our students, staff, and schools. In the event that anyone in our community hears or reads of any potential threat, we ask that you notify a staff member in the school or District. If it is after school hours, we ask that you contact the Pleasantville Police Department immediately. With all of us being observant and alert for potential threats and dangers to our schools and working together we will most certainly keep our students and staff safe.

If you have any children who are anxious or scared after learning of the event that occurred in Uvalde, Texas, please contact the school so we may follow up and provide support. Our counselors are available to help any student and family who needs it. Below is a list of resources that have been developed by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network to help children, families, educators, and communities navigate their way through what they are seeing and hearing from the media. These resources can be found at <https://www.nctsn.org/resources/all-nctsn-and> include:

- Talking to Children about the Shooting
- Helping youth After a Community Trauma: Tips for Educators (En Espanol)
- Talking to Children: When Scary Things Happen (En Espanol)
- Talking to Teens about Violence (En Espanol)
- Tips for Talking to Students about Violence

Central Administration

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Helping School Age Children with Traumatic Grief: Tips for Caregivers (En Espanol)
Helping Teens with Traumatic Grief: Tips for caregivers (En Espanol)
Guiding Adults in Talking to Children about Death and Attending Services
After a Crisis: Helping Young Children Heal
Age-Related Reactions to a Traumatic Event
Talking with Kids About School Violence and Trauma
The Teacher's Role When Tragedy Strikes
Important Tips for Staff Following a Traumatic Event

Sincerely,

Karin R. Farkas,
Acting Superintendent of Schools