



Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Livingston Public Schools Community:

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families, friends, and community in Uvalde, Texas whose lives have been changed forever by yesterday's horrible and senseless violence. This unthinkable act, particularly in an elementary school, is not easy to comprehend, and witnessing images of the tragedy and grief on our televisions and digital devices is difficult to digest. As an adult and as an educator, I am finding it hard to process yesterday's events myself. It is important that we support our students, staff, and families as we grapple with this news.

As the aftermath of the events in Texas continue to unfold, please know that our amazing educators will work to identify, assist, and guide our students who are struggling. We know that children process emotions around the violence and anger in multiple ways and at different speeds. Even students who may not understand the details of a situation can be upset and anxious. For children, seeing and hearing news about violence can be particularly confusing. Our outstanding team of counselors stand ready to speak with our students who may need extra support in the coming days.

On a separate note, I want to assure the LPS Community that the safety and security of our students and school facilities is always our top priority. We are consistently working in partnership with the Livingston Police Department and the New Jersey Department of Education to reflect upon and improve our safety practices and protocols. We are focused on security each and every day, regularly updating our detailed emergency plans and practicing procedures.

Finally, it is likely that families will be fielding questions about this event from children at home. If you are interested, please feel free to click on this article from The National Association of School Psychologists about: [How to talk with kids about violence](#). The article provides some good advice.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's School Counselor or Principal if you feel further assistance is needed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Block, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools