

Ontario-Montclair

School District

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James Q. Hammond, Ed.D.
Superintendent

May 24, 2022

Dear OMSD families, staff and community members:

As you may have heard, a shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas tragically took the lives of 19, including 18 students and a teacher.

There have been several shootings across the nation, and I am deeply saddened that we must endure yet another senseless tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers of comfort and healing are with the victims and their families, as well as the staff, educators, and community at Robb Elementary School.

This tragedy highlights the critical importance of ensuring that our schools remain safe places for our students and staff and warrants a reminder that if you “*See Something, Hear Something, that you Say Something*”.

Ontario-Montclair School District takes safety as we close out the school year and OMSD will also have increased Campus Safety Offices at our OMSD schools.

We also have crisis counselors and teams available to help our students and families who need support with social-emotional and other non-instructional issues.

In the aftermath of this traumatic event, the National Association of School Psychologists notes there are effective ways to talk with students:

- create a sense of safety by returning to normal, predictable routines as soon as possible
- listen to their concerns and feelings
- suggest they limit their use of media to lower their stress and to maintain balance and perspective, and
- encourage sleep (realize that sleep difficulties are common and can lead to fatigue).

These horrific situations are so difficult to understand, let alone explain to students. Below are a few resources to provide some support:

“Our Community, Our Children, Our Commitment, Our Future”

Addressing Grief: Tips for Teachers and Administrators

https://www.lacoe.edu/Portals/0/StudentServices/Addressing_Grief_Tips_for_Teachers_and_Administrators_FINAL.pdf

Helping Youth after Community Trauma: Tips for Educators

https://www.lacoe.edu/Portals/0/StudentServices/helping_youth_after_community_violence_educators.pdf

Talking to Children About Violence

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-safety-and-crisis/school-violence-resources/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-and-teachers>

Teacher Article: [When Bad Things Are Happening](#)

Use [Crisis Circle Prompts](#) or your Restorative Practices & Circles strategies to allow students to process their feelings and emotions.

A tragedy such as this reminds us to hug our loved ones a little tighter and appreciate each day a little more. If you have questions or need any assistance, please contact your school administrator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hammond', written over a horizontal line.

James Q. Hammond, Ed.D. Superintendent