



Tragic Events in Buffalo

May 16, 2022

Dear Irvington School Community,

The hate-filled violence that struck the Buffalo community this weekend is deeply upsetting and disturbing. To know that 10 innocent people lost their lives and others were wounded based on one's racist ideology is abominable. I am certain that this has affected many in our community, as it has me. Through this weekend, I wrestled with my feelings of anger and confusion as to how one could act in such a horrific way, and sadness for the victims and their families.

This horrific event reminds us of why we as a school community are so deeply focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion and serves as a motivation to continue this necessary work. In doing so, together, we will make our community a better, more equitable place and, in turn, have a positive impact on the global community. As we struggle to come to terms with the tragic events of this weekend, let's remember to be kind and uplift each other, to be proud of the commitment to equity that we hold in our schools, and renew our dedication to being agents of change in our community and in every community beyond it, that we can impact.

Throughout our schools, our staff stands ready to support students who may be experiencing emotions related to this event and the hatred associated with it. If you believe your child may need support, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school administrators or counseling staff who are available to help them process their feelings. Additionally, I am providing helpful resources below to assist you in having conversations with your child.

Today, and each day going forward, let's come together as the strong, exceptional community we are and rally around one another, standing up against instances of wrongdoing occurring in our society, and allow difficult times to help us to learn, grow, and become ever stronger.

Sincerely yours,

Kris

Dr. Kristopher Harrison
Superintendent of Schools

Below please find some resources that may be helpful:

For ourselves:

<https://www.apa.org/topics/gun-violence-crime/mass-shooting>

For our children:

<https://www.apa.org/topics/gun-violence-crime/shooting-aftermath>

<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>

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