



IRVINGTON
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Tragedy In Minneapolis

Dear Irvington Community,

It is with tremendous sadness that I am writing to you regarding the shooting that occurred at a church associated with the Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis, Minnesota resulting in the death of two children and injuring 17 others.

While devastating events such as this have become more commonplace than ever imaginable, the timing of this tragedy, as we prepare to welcome our students back to school on Tuesday, prompted the necessity of a response.

Please know that as a District we take the safety of our students and staff extremely seriously. As such, I want to direct your attention to our [District Wide Safety Plan](#), which outlines the procedures and policies in place to protect our students, faculty, and staff.

Additionally, as part of Superintendent's Conference Day, our faculty completed an online training entitled, "Prevention and Emergency Response in K-12 Schools" sponsored by the [Altaris Consulting Group](#), our partners in developing emergency response plans, conducting drills, and maintaining a safe and secure environment across the District. Throughout the year, multiple safety drills take place in each school building. I want to assure the community that the faculty and staff take their responsibility in terms of protecting students' safety very seriously, as demonstrated in the past, and will continue to do so.

That being said, children may express concerns as we approach the opening of school based on what they have seen and heard through the media. I am including resources from the [National Association of School Psychologists on Talking to Children About Violence for both Educators and Parents](#).

Lastly, I would like to remind the entire community that last spring the Board of Education adopted the Secure Storage resolution. This resolution was adopted to inform District parents of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes based on [New York State Law](#).

I want to reassure the community that the safety of our students and faculty is paramount. As always, reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mara Ratesic
Superintendent of Schools



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