

Superintendent's November Letter to the Community

Last weekend we witnessed the deadliest attack on the American Jewish community in our country's history. It was a shocking act of violence and a shocking wake-up call about the power and threat of hate speech.

Our thoughts go out to those who lost their lives and also to those who lost friends and family in Pittsburgh's tragic and unconscionable synagogue shooting this past weekend. There is no place in our world for this kind of violence and suffering. We stand with the victims of this atrocity, and we will continue to stand up for the rights of Jewish people to live safely and peacefully in this world, in this nation, and in this community.

AUSD continues to call on all of us to call out and fight anti-Semitism wherever and whenever it is found. AUSD will also continue to support its Jewish students and families, work with our partners in the Jewish Education Round Table, and report anti-Semitic incidents that occur in and across our school sites.

Please know we have posted resources from both the Anti-Defamation League and Facing History and Ourselves on our [Jewish Education Round Table page](#) and our [Anti-Bias Resources page](#). We hope our families, staff, and students will review them to join us in our continuing need to understand and fight against this ongoing scourge of anti-Semitism we face in the world. And we pledge again to make AUSD a place where students, staff, and families feel safe, feel welcome, and feel that truly, "Everyone Belongs Here."

We hope students and their families will contact and seek out their administrators, counselors, and teachers if they need help processing this terrible tragedy in weeks ahead. AUSD will continue to provide resources for those who need it.

Sincerely,



Sean McPhetridge, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools