



KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

Mr. Jason Schimpf
School Business Administrator

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Superintendent of Schools

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March 28, 2023

Dear School Community,

On Monday, March 27th, a lone gunman opened fire on students and staff at the Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee. In the wake of this senseless and calculated tragedy, we have learned that a 28-year-old former student of the Covenant School killed three children and three employees. Five others were wounded in the attack. The preschool through sixth grade students were preparing to start spring recess.

On behalf of our Dragon family, we send thoughts and prayers to the families of the deceased, and the students and staff at the Covenant School. We express our gratitude to the brave officers of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department for courageously moving toward gunfire and preventing additional casualties.

The footage made available to the public is incomprehensible and adds to the list of 131 mass shootings in the US since January 1st. Our feelings of safety and security are undermined and our anxiety increases as we all feel the effects of another school shooting.

In the wake of tragedy, it is normal for students to experience a wide array of emotions and feelings of anger, anguish, loss and fear. As the details of this event unfold, and access to disturbing surveillance footage increases, students may find themselves struggling in the days ahead. It is important to know that there is no "right or wrong" way to feel and to recognize that traumatic events have a big impact on all of us.

We ask our parents/guardians to engage in conversation with your child to assess their wellbeing and to encourage students to utilize the support of their school counselors if they need help processing strong emotions. [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#) by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) is an excellent resource.

School Security

School shootings raise natural questions regarding school security. Kingsway has strong and well-rehearsed school security measures in place. We take matters involving school security seriously and are quick to address matters that have the potential to threaten our school environment. Additionally, we have a cooperative and supportive relationship with local law enforcement and employ several School Resource Officers at Kingsway Regional Middle and High School.

School Threats

In recent weeks, we have addressed school violence at our schools. Hostile behaviors, aggression and intentional behaviors to hurt others are not tolerated. The endemic of school violence speaks to a societal problem and minimally requires the partnership of schools and families. With regard to Kingsway, it is important that we understand why school officials do not tolerate violence or threats of violence on our campus. Such behaviors continue to be met with strict disciplinary measures. I ask that

Home of the Dragons

our parents/guardians talk to their children about our intolerance of such behaviors, including the consequences.

See Something, Say Something

The U.S. Secret Service has studied school shootings over the years and released [Averting Targeted School Violence Analysis](#) in 2021. This informative document tells us that most violent acts against schools were caused by someone who was “known” to the community. Furthermore, most disrupted acts of school violence were the result of a potential assailant sharing information with other members of the school community. Over the years, we have pushed the message “See Something, Say Something,” and want to again encourage our parents, faculty, students, and staff to report concerns to school officials and/or law enforcement immediately.

Our hearts are heavy today for the children and families in Nashville, Tennessee, and I thank you for taking the time to review this letter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



James J. Lavender, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Additional Resources

[Talking to Children about Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#) by NASP

[How to Help Your Child Who's Worried about School Shootings](#) by WebMD

[What adults need to know, and how they can help after school shootings](#) by Detroit Free Press



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