



Checking in - America must do better

1 message

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Heart of a Lion



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
UNIVERSITY CITY

Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day!

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Dear U. City Schools Parents and Caregivers:

I wanted to check in with you regarding yet another horrific shooting targeted at young children and teachers in Texas. My heart mourns for the entire community of Uvalde.

Last Tuesday, these elementary school students and their two teachers got out of bed, brushed their teeth, had breakfast with their families, went to school, said hello to one another, shared some smiles, began their lessons - and then had their lives violently taken. This is absolutely wrong. America must do better. America will not thrive if we can't safely go to school, to church, to temple, to supermarkets, to restaurants, to concerts, and every other place where we gather and build humanity. I cannot speak for you, but it leaves me disgusted, scared and numb.

Yesterday, I checked in with staff and urged them to not stuff their feelings. I asked them to take care of themselves, but to also keep our students first - as it is hard to keep our children insulated from the pervasive understanding that mass shootings are a horrible part of life in America. University City police have also been very responsive to us, adding patrols and ensuring that our end of year celebrations are still fun, but safe. We too are continuing to review our safety standards.

We finish our school year with both joy and grief, which can be confusing and hard to process for anyone, especially our children who cannot be wholly well if our country is not well. Remember this: We are here for you. We have a student services team that can always help. I am an email or phone call away. Your children's principals are always open to emails or phone calls. We remain a community, always.

Here are a few resources that may help:

- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)
- [Parent Guidelines for Helping Youth after the Recent Shooting](#)
- [Helping Your Children Manage Distress](#)
- [Talking To Children About Shootings in the News](#)

Finally, as we process yet again another tragedy, don't let it win. Don't let it take your joy of being the hero in your child's life. They need heroes, and you can be that, always.

In Service of Our Children,

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