



INTERDISTRICT SCHOOL FOR ARTS & COMMUNICATION

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September 5, 2024

Dear ISAAC Family,

For the past several hours, I have been saddened and heartbroken by the events that unfolded yesterday at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia. As parents and educators, we join their community with shared grief and sorrow as these families deal with this unspeakable tragedy. I know all of you will hold these families and their community in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with the evilness that has taken the lives of their most precious loved ones. These acts of violence on schools force us to think about our own children at their schools including our own special place that we all work, learn, and grow at each school day.

In the days ahead, the media and social media coverage and attention to this event will lead to a mix of questions and concerns as it relates to school safety and preparation for schools across the nation. This morning, I felt it was important to notify the entire ISAAC community that we as a school will continue to plan, practice, and secure our building in an effort to prevent violence from the unthinkable. We are blessed to have a tremendous staff who is trained in crisis security along with our Dean of Students, Bobby Harris, who is a trained, former police officer who is armed every day in our building. Moreover, in the following months ahead, we will be welcoming another former police officer who is retiring from the FBI who will join Mr. Harris in the building. Beyond the physical safety, our mental health team is prepared to possible reactions that may come forward from our students following this event.

As a community of parents and educators, I ask that we work together to ensure that our students are physically and emotionally safe. If any student is struggling with this topic, I ask that you contact our school so that our team of school social workers and counselors may support them. In addition, I want to stress the importance of remaining vigilant with any social media threats about our school. As we have in past notifications, we ask that you speak to your child about the importance of being a "hero" by reporting any threats mentioned on social media. Together, our Dragon Nation can work together to ensure the safety of all students and staff at ISAAC.

In summary, I want to stress the attentiveness and intensity that exists in the area of safety of our school among our administrative and school safety team. In addition, we are incredibly thankful for our close working relationship with Chief Wright and the New London Police Department. Together, we are constantly working together in an effort to enhance our school safety and security by any means possible so that ISAAC remains the safest school possible.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact any member of our administrative team. For me personally, I gave a little harder hug to my own two boys, Rocco and Nico. I am sure all of you will do the same to your children.

We thank you for your continued cooperation and support as we begin a historical school year at ISAAC.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicholas J. Spera
Executive Director