

Family Guidance Following Recent Events

Following the recent situation in our school community, we shared division-specific guidance to support conversations at home. While the approach may vary by age, the core message remains consistent: keep conversations calm, factual, and supportive, while following your child's lead.

Below is a consolidated guide with key considerations by division:

Primary & Lower School

Should I bring this up with my child?

- Bringing up this situation may or may not be necessary.
- If your child has not mentioned anything, there is no need to initiate a detailed discussion.
- Follow your child's lead.

How should I explain what happened?

- Keep the conversation calm, simple, honest, and reassuring.
- Young children do not need specific details.
- A clear and brief explanation is enough:
 - "A teacher broke important school rules that are meant to keep kids safe, and adults are handling the situation."
- Avoid sharing specific allegations, speculating, or using emotionally charged language.

How do I reassure my child?

- Reassure your child that they are safe at school.
- There are adults whose job it is to protect them, and concerns are taken seriously.

Should I talk about safety?

- This can be a gentle opportunity to reinforce important safety messages:
 - Adults should not ask children to keep secrets
 - Children can say "no" if they feel uncomfortable
 - It is always okay to tell a trusted adult if something feels wrong
- Keep your tone steady and reassuring, not alarmist.

How might my child respond?

- Children may feel confused, sad, angry, loyal, worried, or may not have a strong reaction.
- Let them know it is okay to feel different things and that they can talk to you.

Middle School

Should I bring this up with my child?

- Follow your child's lead.
- Some students may have strong reactions; others may not feel impacted.
- If your child has not raised questions, there is no need to initiate a detailed discussion.

How should I start the conversation?

- Start by asking what they've heard:
 - "What have you heard?"
- Listen carefully and gently correct misinformation.
- Remind your child that not everything shared by peers or online is accurate.

How much should I share?

- Keep the conversation calm, factual, and reassuring.
- A simple, age-appropriate explanation is sufficient:
 - "The school learned about serious concerns involving a teacher, took immediate action, and that teacher is no longer at the school."
 - "Law enforcement is involved, and adults are handling the situation."
- Avoid speculation or sharing unverified details.

How should I address social media and rumors?

- Remind your child:
 - Not everything shared by peers or online is accurate
 - Reposting or repeating unverified information can unintentionally cause harm
 - If they see or hear something concerning, they should bring it to a trusted adult rather than circulating it

How might my child respond?

- Students may experience confusion, disappointment, anger, loyalty, worry, or mixed emotions.
- Let them know all reactions are valid and that they can talk openly with you or another trusted adult.

How do I reassure my child?

- Reassure them that student safety is the school's highest priority.
- Adults act quickly when concerns arise.

Upper School

Should I have a conversation with my child?

- Upper School students often receive information quickly through peers, group chats, and social media.

Use your judgment based on your child's level of maturity.

How should I approach the conversation?

- “Less is more,” which can create space for your child to express themselves.
- Be open to listening rather than leading with a long explanation.

How much should I share?

- Parents should feel comfortable customizing conversations based on how they talk with their children.
- Depending on your child, you may choose to be more specific with the facts.
- Avoid speculation and focus on what is known.

How can I support my child?

- This is a deeply sensitive situation and subject matter.
- Being candid about how difficult it can be to discuss topics like this can be a meaningful way to connect with your child.

Where can we go for support?

- Families are encouraged to reach out directly with any questions or concerns.