



Galena Park Independent School District

14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston * 832-386-1202

Angi M. Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
awilliams@galenaparkisd.com

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Dear Galena Park ISD Family:

With a heavy heart I must express concern and grief over last week's dreadful shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. While this tragedy shakes the nation, as educators, we are doubly affected. We collectively mourn the loss of life and innocence, and will keep their families and community in our thoughts and prayers. No doubt we will experience a wide range of emotions as the horrors of this tragedy continue to evade our comprehension.

Our school and district counselors are trained to support students *and* staff who are severely impacted by tragic events. Any student or staff member who needs assistance coping with this tragedy can call their campus counselor or administrator. Additional help can also be reached at our district office by calling (832) 386-1000.

Our schools, businesses and homes form our community. As a community, we work together to bring the safest environment for our children to grow, learn and pursue their dreams. As a school district, we focus on safety throughout the year. We have redesigned our elementary school entrances to control access, trained administrators in emergency procedures, conducted safety drills with our students and performed annual reviews of our safety and emergency procedures. In addition, our deputies regularly participate in extensive emergency response training. In light of current events, we have also added additional security personnel. We will continue to take every measure to ensure the safety and well-being of our children and each of you.

As our students and staff are our first priority, please give thoughtful consideration to the following suggestions:

- Be calm, factual, and age-appropriate when discussing any traumatic event.
- Provide opportunities to express concerns and ask questions.
- Maintain, as much as possible, a basic, routine schedule each day.
- Continue with any scheduled holiday activities as planned.
- Reassure your students that the campus is safe.
- **Keep adult only conversation away from children.**
- Watch for possible signs of post-traumatic stress (reactions to previous personal tragedy, increased irritability, fear, hypervigilance, dramatic changes in behaviors, or difficulty concentrating). If needed, refer to your campus counselor for additional assistance.
- Take care of yourself!

Thank you for your unwavering diligence in maintaining the safety of Galena Park ISD. Working together with our community, we will continue to provide our students the best education in the safest possible environment.

Sincerely,

Dr. Angi Williams
Superintendent

"Peace on Earth.....Goodwill Toward Men"