



Toni Jones, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Fairfield Public Schools
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Dear Families,

The recent events in Florida hit very close to home. Let me begin by saying that our hearts go out to those in Florida who are facing an unimaginable tragedy with the senseless act of gun violence in their high school. I want to assure our families and staff that the most important work that we do in FPS is to keep our 10,000 students and 1,500 staff members safe every day. FPS works in partnership with our Fairfield Police Department to ensure that our safety plans are up to date and that safety drills are practiced regularly. The Town of Fairfield has invested heavily in upgrading our school safety and security measures across our school system. We have certified officers designated to our School Safety Units. We have cameras, automated doors, trained police officer supported drills, and constant monitoring. We will continue to be proactive in our approach.

That said, there is never a guarantee and we must remain vigilant. Working together proactively will reduce risk. Please talk with your children and encourage them to speak up if they see something concerning. FPS has an anonymous TIPS online reporting system that is monitored 24/7. Students should not be hesitant to use it. The link is on the front page of the district website and each school's website.

The National Association of School Psychologists provides some guidelines for talking to your children about violence. They remind us that it is not advisable for elementary children to watch the events on television, and they encourage families to monitor what is on their television screen. Our certified support staff is available for any student who is feeling anxious, unsettled, or having trouble processing the magnitude of such unsettling events. Particularly, our secondary students who may be feeling overwhelmed by the barrage of school shooting stories in the media. For more information about talking to children about violence, click here: [NASP Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)

FPS is also working hard to make sure that we have appropriate programming in place to work with families who have young people in a mental health crisis. Our dedicated staff is available for parents needing assistance in finding adequate supports.

We will keep Florida in our thoughts and in our hearts.

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