



Dear Abington Families,

As we continue to learn more about the tragedy in Parkland Florida, I feel sadness for those affected and a deep concern for all children. My thoughts and prayers go out to the students, families, staff and the entire Parkland Florida community.

This senseless tragedy will dominate every form of media in the coming days and weeks. Experiencing, witnessing, or even hearing of a traumatic incident may affect a child or adult in a variety of ways; therefore, it is very important that children be given ample opportunities to ask questions and to talk about their reactions. These conversations are personal and are different depending on each individual. Therefore, families should choose how or if they talk about it with their children.

Even though a vacation week is upon us, the School Department stands ready to assist you either by providing counseling services upon request or with the following resources:

[Helping Children Cope with Grief and Loss Link](#)

[Managing Strong Emotional Reactions to Traumatic Events Link](#)

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/Crisis/HelpforCaregivers.pdf>

http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/family_systems_factsheet.pdf

<http://www.nctsn.org/print/965>

<http://www.fredrogers.org/parents/special-challenges/tragic-events.php>

None of us can ever be too vigilant in our efforts to keep children safe. Our district and each school works closely with the Abington Police Department to maintain a comprehensive emergency response plan and each school practices drills multiple times each year. This team is proactively engaged in an ongoing review and drill of all security and emergency response practices.

Despite the precautions, drills and planning these tragedies are disturbing. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Peter Schafer

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