



WALL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

P.O. Box 1199 • 18th Avenue

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Dr. Tracy Handerhan
Superintendent of Schools

November 8, 2023

Dear WTPS Community:

By now you are probably aware that one of our Wall High School Class of 2023 graduates was seriously injured. We at WTPS are deeply saddened by this situation and we continue to keep her family and friends at the forefront of our thoughts and prayers. Throughout the day, District counseling staff have provided support and resources as needed to students and colleagues. Please know that with the upcoming extended weekend, we recognize the importance of providing parents and community members with resources to support the health and wellness needs of their families if necessary.

It is not unusual to feel anxious, sad, fearful, angry or vulnerable as a result of unsettling events. The WTPS District Counseling Staff has assembled some digital resources (see below), including some articles detailing best practices that can help navigate discussions as a family.

ARTICLES

- [Explaining the News to Our Kids](#)
- [How to talk to Children about Difficult News](#)
- [How to Talk with Kids about Tragedies & Other Traumatic New Events](#)
- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Families and Educators](#)

Additionally, if your child or a family member is in need of some direct conversations with professionals, helpline information is provided below. Upon return to school, our school counselors will be available for support should your child require services. We ask that you communicate with the school if you anticipate this need so that we can coordinate seamless support.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- [Youth Helpline: 2nd Floor](#): 2ND FLOOR is a confidential and anonymous helpline for New Jersey's youth and young adults 888- 222- 2228.
- [NJ Hopeline](#): Specialists are available for confidential telephone counseling and support 24 hours a day, 7 days per week 855- 654- 6735.
- [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Reference Guide- Monmouth County](#)

Since my arrival in Wall Township, I continue to be moved by the outpouring of support for families during difficult times. I am very grateful for this strong sense of community.

Sincerely,
Tracy R. Handerhan
Superintendent of Schools