



North Park Community School
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Dear NPCCS Parents and Caregivers,

The Buffalo Public Schools is deeply saddened by the recent tragedy that has shaken the City of Buffalo. The mass shooting at the Tops Market on Jefferson Avenue has impacted our students, families, and community in various ways. The BPS Student Support Staff will be present beginning Monday, May 15th to support our student social emotional needs, to address feelings, and to develop coping strategies. The Buffalo Public Schools' Student Support Services Teams, Crisis Prevention & Response Team, teachers, and other community supports will be available to students, teachers, and parents on an ongoing basis.

Please know that for the coming weeks, our school will be focused on the following 4 areas: (1) Taking extra precautions to ensure physical safety and security for all students and staff; (2) Deliberately setting aside time to provide all students needing social/ emotional support with counseling and restorative justice circles that focus on healing; (3) Providing all students with healthy breakfast and lunch meals and sound medical support as needed; and (4) Excellent instructional practices within our CLRI curriculum and in Art, Music, and English classes- allowing access to grade appropriate materials that will encourage students to discuss, draw, and/ or write about their fears, concerns, and feelings.

An unexpected event such as this may affect young people in a variety of ways depending on age and prior experiences with trauma. The information below may help Parents/Caregivers have the sensitive conversations with your children/family members as we recover from this tragedy. It is important to reassure children that they are safe, make time to talk while keeping the conversation developmentally appropriate.

- **Early elementary school students** need brief, simple information that should be balanced with reassurances that their school and homes are safe and that adults are there to protect them. Give simple examples of school safety like reminding children about exterior doors being locked, child monitoring efforts on the playground, and emergency drills practiced during the school day.
- **Upper elementary and early middle school students** will be more vocal in asking questions about whether they truly are safe and what is being done at their school. They may need assistance separating reality from fantasy. Discuss efforts of school and community leaders to provide safe schools.

Yours Truly,
NPSC Team