

MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Superintendent of Schools

Jonathan Ponds, Ed.D.

May 25, 2022

Dear Families, Caregivers and Staff,

It is with a broken heart that I write to you this morning. Making sense of such a horrific act of violence where students and a teacher lost their lives in a senseless mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas is incomprehensible. Our prayers and condolences are with the families, friends, school personnel, town officials, and all who are now suffering and dealing with what must be unbelievable grief.

Today, our administrators will be reviewing all safety protocols with staff. We will have counselors ready to support students and staff as the day unfolds. We will do all in our power to reinforce to the students that we are here to protect them, speak so they feel safe and encourage them to speak to us if they are feeling sad, lonely, confused or just need someone to whom they can talk. Please know we are always in close contact with the Montclair Police Department to strengthen our safety protocols.

We emphasize that if you see something, read something or otherwise hear of something, please report it no matter how inconsequential you may think it is. Although this tragedy was not in our hometown but hundreds of miles away, we mourn for the community of Uvalde, Texas and want to assure you that the safety of our students and staff members is always our utmost priority.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jonathan Ponds
Superintendent