

MASS SHOOTING - TALK TO KIDS

Like many in our community, we in 287 are overwhelmed with sadness and disbelief. The recent mass shooting in Las Vegas killed over 50 people and left hundreds of others injured. While details are still surfacing, we know that a tragedy like this has a profound impact on our country, communities, and our students. Our hearts go out to the families of the victims and all who were injured.

287 will keep their eyes and ears open for students who need support during this time. Our educators, school counselors, and school psychologists are on standby to support all students, especially those whose past experiences may make them even more vulnerable during this time.

We also want to share two resources with you that give guidance to educators and parents on how to speak to children about mass violence.

Resources for Educators and Parents:

- National Association of School Psychologists: [Talking to Children About Violence](#)
- American Academy of Pediatrics: [Talking to Children About Tragedies & Other News Events](#) (this article also speaks to talking with students with developmental delays, disabilities, and Autism).

Sadly, many of our students walk through life living with fear and anxiety. They wonder if they will ever be safe. It is my sincere hope that staff and students alike feel safe at 287. It is our jobs as adults to help create that safe, welcoming, and accepting environment for students. At a time when there are many uncertainties, one thing we know for sure is: 287 is a place where students can express themselves, be in the comfort of a safe place, and simply, be themselves.

We have support staff available to talk with staff and students as needed, and our District Mobile Response Team is on standby as well. Please contact your school principal if you feel your child may need additional support.

Again, please join the 287 community in sharing our condolences and deepest sympathies to the victims and their families.

Sincerely,

Sandy Lewandowski
Superintendent