



Superintendent of Schools
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401 West Chicago Street
Buchanan, Michigan 49107

May 27, 2022

Dear Buchanan Community Schools Parents/Guardians,

We share our deepest sympathy and support for the students, staff and families of Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. We cannot begin to imagine the pain the Uvalde community feels following this week's tragic events. Our hearts are heavy with the weight of such a loss and our thoughts are with those left injured.

While it is unknown what prompted the shooting, and not for us to speculate, we do wish to send our families and community members a reminder that there are ways to seek help if you or your student is experiencing distress. Across our state, schools participate in the [OK2Say program](#). Additionally, here are [mental health resources](#) designed to support a variety of challenges experienced by individuals of all ages as well as information from the [Centers for Disease Control for children dealing with school emergencies](#). We encourage our students, families and community to use these resources when needed.

For families seeking a way to talk with their children about yesterday's events, you may find the [National Association of School Psychologists \(NASP\) website](#) to be a helpful starting point. Non-specific safety conversations may be more appropriate for younger students and may begin with presentations such as these found on the Johns Hopkins site for [K-2 grade and 3-5 grade safety](#) in schools.

Additionally, please keep the following in mind:

- **Check-in to see how your student is feeling and talk about any existing concerns.** Children may not bring up their concerns/feelings intuitively and may need to be asked directly. This will help them feel cared for and safe.
- **Give reassuring facts about their safety.** It is important to review safety protocols and remind them about what they can do and what the adults around them will do to keep them safe. This will reduce anxiety or worry about their well-being.
- **Consider your student's age.** Younger children should be given brief, simple information or be allowed to share their feelings with drawings or playing instead of just talking. Older students (middle/high school) may need more detailed conversation, especially if they are asking.
- **Limit exposure to media.** Media can cause secondary trauma and exaggerate the students' sense of safety.
- **Model healthy behavior.** Students are watching how adults consume media and how they take care of themselves. They also monitor if adults are honest about their feelings and if they are actively engaged in healthy coping strategies.

- **Maintain routines.** Keeping a regular schedule is important and reestablishes a sense of safety. Maintain routines that specifically encourage healthy relationships and community (like regular dinner times).

If you feel your student needs additional support, please contact their building principal. They will be glad to connect you with additional resources.

In addition to the resources that may help those who are in distress, we continuously work to secure our buildings. We currently have:

- ❖ Secure entry ways at all buildings
- ❖ Cameras throughout all school buildings
- ❖ Regularly scheduled drills for students, staff and leadership
- ❖ Regularly scheduled training for all staff

Our thoughts and support are with the Uvalde community today and throughout their recovery.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia L. Robinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patricia L. Robinson
Superintendent