

Dear Bus 52 Parents and Guardians:

This morning, you received a call from either me or a District administrator detailing for you an event that took place on your child's bus route. I am very concerned about what students may have seen and heard, and we ask that you partner with us in the following ways:

- If possible, be a presence at the bus stop or ask another trusted adult to assist you with this.
- Avoid exposure to media coverage of the event.
- Provide positive, non-violent activities to help them cope
- During discussions about the event, listen to your child and refrain from adding details or sharing new information that may add stress or anxiety. Don't be surprised if this is a conversation that occurs several times over the next few weeks.
- Reassure your child's sense of safety by putting the event in context, talking about a family safety plan and emergency contact information, and reminding them that school is a safe place to be.

Children react differently to trauma than adults. While adults are familiar with emotions, often children have to learn coping mechanisms for traumatic events. You may see your child exhibit some of the following behaviors:

- Trouble sleeping or nightmares
- On edge, easily provoked, or irritable
- Irrational fears, fear of recurrence, or fears about personal safety
- Loss of appetite, stomach pain, aching muscles
- Unable to label their feelings or emotions

You know your child best, and you know how he or she reacts to things regularly. Vigilance about changes in your child's normal behavior is the best measuring stick for your level of concern.

Please contact us at school if you need assistance.

Sincerely,

Dr. Georgetta May

Principal