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May 25, 2022

Dear PVUSD Educational Community,

My heart goes out to the families of the students and teachers who tragically lost their lives in Uvalde, Texas yesterday. As parents and educational colleagues, we grieve alongside the Robb Elementary School community whose lives have forever been changed. The frequency and magnitude of school shootings amplifies our need to join together as a community at this time.

All of us are deeply impacted by yesterday's tragedy. While discussing this event may be difficult, it is also an opportunity to share with you the many resources that exist to lessen anxiety of our educational community in a genuine and compassionate way. There are many social emotional supports available through our PVUSD counseling team and our personal connections with colleagues, students and families - we are each other's strength at this time.

This tragedy reaffirms our commitment to expanding our mental health support systems. As a significant added resource, the [PVUSD Family Engagement and Wellness Center](#) was established in December 2021 to offer our families and students access to additional counseling services. This [link](#) shares information about services available during the week: Tuesdays to Fridays 11 AM to 7 PM and Saturdays from 9 AM to 4 PM. These services are available without appointment or cost, and we encourage you to utilize services as you and your family may need.

Additionally, PVPSA has provided some helpful links specifically about speaking with children regarding this type of event.

- <https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/15-tips-talking-children-about-school-violence>
- <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/how-to-talk-to-children-about-school-shootings>
- <https://www.schoolcrisiscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Guidelines-Talking-to-Kids-About-Attacks-Two-Sided-Onesheet-Format.pdf>

PVUSD maintains the health and safety of students and staff as a top priority. Our safety plans include specific ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) procedures that allow students and staff to act quickly and flexibly depending on the type of emergency. Additionally, staff and families at PVUSD have access to an anonymous [STOP IT](#) app where anyone can safely report suspicious in-person or social media activity. The District emphasizes that all students and staff should "see something, say something".

I wish to thank our entire educational community for your compassion and strength to engage and reaffirm that we are in a safe, caring learning environment. Thank you for your trust and support as we navigate the complexity of this event in the coming days, weeks, and months.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michelle Rodriguez
Superintendent of Schools

Please see [this letter](#) sent from All County Superintendents from the County Office of Education.