



ROYAL OAK SCHOOLS

A COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

March 27, 2023

Dear Royal Oak Families,

Today we share our sympathy and support for the students, staff, and families of the Covenant School in Nashville. We can only imagine the pain Nashville and the surrounding community feel following today's active-shooter situation. Our hearts are heavy with the weight of more lives lost, and our thoughts are on those affected by this tragedy and so many others involving gun violence and horrific acts.

Each of our Royal Oak schools has a detailed safety plan which is continuously evaluated and adjusted for improvement. We continue to review these plans with the help of the Royal Oak Police Department and our School Resource Officer, Joe Yerke. We are committed to the safety of our staff and students, and we know that the drills we conduct, the review of our plans, and those of other schools are all beneficial to that end.

Below you will find some resources that may be helpful if or when your children have questions or want to talk about traumatic events.

[Tips for Talking to Children and Youth After Traumatic Events](#)

[Helping Children Cope After a Traumatic Event](#)

[The Effects of Trauma on Children and Teens](#)

[How to Talk to Children About Traumatic Events](#)

As a reminder, there are ways to report concerning things as our schools participate in the State of Michigan's [OK2Say program](#). Additionally, mental health resources help to

support various challenges experienced by people of all ages. We encourage our students, families, and community to use these resources when needed.

The [National Association of School Psychologists \(NASP\) website](#) is a helpful starting point for families seeking to talk with their children about yesterday's events.

Non-specific safety conversations may be more appropriate for younger students. They may begin with presentations like those on the Johns Hopkins site for [K-2 grade and 3-5 grade safety in schools](#).

Our thoughts are with the Covenant School and the Nashville community today and throughout their recovery.

Mary Beth Fitzpatrick

Superintendent Royal Oak Schools

