



SAN JUAN ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 25, 2022

Dear San Juan Island School District families:

We are deeply saddened by the news of a school shooting in Texas yesterday. There are no words to adequately express the deep sorrow we feel for the victims. Although we may be many miles away from Uvalde, Texas, we all feel the impact of violence that touches a school. We offer our deepest condolences to the families, students, staff, and community that are grieving such a profound loss.

Student and staff safety is our utmost priority. We have systems and plans in place to keep everyone as safe as possible and are further refining our current safety plans.

Current safety measures:

1. Secure all entrances at all buildings
2. Continue to monitor and update the school safety plans
3. Collaborative partnerships with San Juan County Sheriff's department
4. Mental Health and counseling support

This is difficult to process; as parents we are struggling with you. Acts of violence such as these are especially disturbing and frightening. In response there are many things we as adults can do to reassure our students of their safety at school.

As our children learn of this event, it is important to know it may cause them to question their own safety. We can reassure them that the adults around them will do everything in their power to keep them safe.

Families and staff are encouraged to visit the following resources to help talk with their children about this tragic event.

Resources:

[Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#) – *National Association of School Psychologists*

[Talking to Kids About Fear and Violence](#) – *Mental Health America*

[How to Talk to Kids About Tragedies in the Media](#) – *Child Development Institute*

We will continue to support students by providing them with opportunities for extra support if needed, and by keeping our routines as normal as possible to help students feel secure. You can help your child by simply listening to them and being prepared to discuss using the resources above.

We don't always know how a student will be affected in a crisis, but you know your child best. If you feel your child needs additional support, please let your school know. Each school principal and counselor is there to assist.

Unfortunately, a tragedy like this reminds us to hug our loved ones tighter and appreciate what we have. It also strengthens our resolve and sense of urgency to maintain safe practices as well as providing mental health support for our students.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together for our children.

Superintendent
Fred Woods