

Jeannette City School District Parents and Community,

In light of the recent tragedy in the Jeannette community, I would encourage all of you to take a vigilant effort to ensure that future tragedies similar to this one do not occur again. The school district is taking steps to ensure that all of the necessary support services are made available to the students through the availability of counseling services. I would strongly encourage all families to listen closely to your children. If your children are expressing concerns for their safety or that of others, please contact the school, authorities or health care professionals as appropriate.

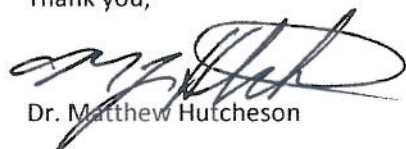
The District offers support services through the Student Assistance Program (SAP). This program helps to deliver counseling services to students to address a variety of needs that they may face. As a parent, you can recommend that your child participate in this program to provide assistance for concerns relating to drugs, alcohol, grief, suicidal thoughts, depression and other areas of concern. Please contact the school counselor or principal if you would like additional information. We have provided and will continue to provide counseling services through the current staff and other agencies as necessary to provide our students with a sense of well-being to allow them to receive the educational gains that are the central role of the school.

The District takes all threats and statements seriously. In the near future, you will observe a police presence in and around the schools at various times during the day. Please, do not be alarmed. This presence has been pre-arranged with the Jeannette Police Department. In the past two years, the JCSD has gone to great efforts to increase security measures in our buildings. Please, know this effort will continue in earnest. These security measures may at times seem like an inconvenience but rest assured they are in place for the safety of our children. The administrative and instructional staff will work together to provide the highest degree of safety for all students. As parents and community members, it is essential that, you too, remain vigilant in listening to the statements, on-line posts and conversations that our students are having. The first step to prevention of these events is listening.

It is important for us to listen to our children to facilitate the healing process. It is essential that all of us pull together as a community in an effort to address the concerns for our children and families. This is not a time for revenge...but a time to draw together to address the needs within the community. I am asking that all of the religious leaders work with the school to ensure that we are doing everything possible to provide a safe community for our students. This event may not have a direct effect on your child, but through publicity, it has provided a level of concern that needs to be addressed within our community. As a district, we are asking that you take the events that are happening within our county seriously and maintain an open line of communication with your children.

I would ask that we all pull together to support our children in the coming weeks through their activities including basketball games, winter guard and the play as well as concerts and youth group activities. We need to take time to celebrate life and do everything possible to keep that as our focus for the children in our community.

Thank you,



Dr. Matthew Hutcheson