



KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

*Dr. James J. Lavender, ext. 4205
Superintendent of Schools*

*Mr. Jason Schimpf, ext. 4203
School Business Administrator*

May 25, 2022

Dear School Community,

On Tuesday, May 24th, a lone gunman opened fire on elementary school students attending the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. In the wake of this horrifying event, we have learned that 19 children and 2 teachers were killed by an 18 year-old man. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders were preparing for the end of the school year, excited for the start of summer recess.

On behalf of our Dragon family, we send thoughts and prayers to the families of the deceased, and the students and staff at Robb Elementary School. What we have observed in Texas is incomprehensible and recalls the deadly school shootings in Columbine High School, Sandy Hook Elementary School, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and many more. We are all left feeling confused, angry, and sad.

In the wake of tragedy it is normal for students to experience a wide array of emotions. They may find themselves struggling in the days ahead. It is important to know that there is no "right or wrong" way to feel and to recognize that traumatic events have a big impact on all of us. Please monitor and engage in conversation with your child to assess their wellbeing and encourage students to utilize the support of their school counselors if they need help processing strong emotions. [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#) by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) is an excellent resource.

School Security

School shootings raise natural questions regarding school security. Kingsway has strong and well-rehearsed school security measures in place. We take matters involving school security seriously and are quick to address matters that have the potential to threaten our school environment. Additionally, we have a cooperative and supportive relationship with local law enforcement and employ several School Resource Officers at Kingsway Regional Middle and High School.

See Something, Say Something

The U.S. Secret Service has studied school shootings over the years and released [Averting Targeted School Violence Analysis](#) in 2021. This informative document tells us that most violent acts against schools were caused by someone who was "known" to the community. Furthermore, most disrupted acts of school violence were the result of a potential assailant sharing information with other members of the school community. Over the years, we have pushed the message "See Something, Say Something," and want to again encourage our faculty, students, and staff to report concerns to school officials and/or law enforcement immediately.

Our hearts are heavy today for the children and families in Uvalde, Texas, and I thank you for taking the time to review this letter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools

Home of the Dragons

Additional Resources

[Talking to Children about Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#) by NASP

[How to Help Your Child Who's Worried about School Shootings](#) by WebMD

[What adults need to know, and how they can help after school shootings](#) by Detroit Free Press

