



CHEEKTOWAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

"It's All About The Learning"

www.cheektowagak12.org

May 25, 2022

Dear Cheektowaga Central Community,

My heart breaks for the community in Texas that grieves because of a senseless act of violence. This after just a short time of our own community's experience. We all have a responsibility to renounce hate and embrace civility. You can dislike behavior, decisions, opinions, but do not hate the person. We must love one another. We must respect that we are all human beings and deserve the same dignity and respect. I implore you to constantly remind yourself and others of the idea of dignity and respect for all.

As we try to understand how a horrific event can again occur in one of our Nation's schools it makes us ask about our own schools. I am confident in saying that Cheektowaga Central has invested a great deal of resources over the years to improve our security.

- We have double secured main entrances for every building. This requires two doors to be unlocked to allow visitors to enter.
- We require all visitors to register at the main entrance, provide identification and wear a name tag.
- We have a security camera system that records the interior and exterior of our buildings 24/7. The Cheektowaga Police Department has full access to this system.
- We require and train our staff in safety protocols such as exterior doors are to remain closed and locked. Unidentified individuals are to be reported to the office immediately.
- We have an Emergency Button that immediately limits access to all portions of the building to be used if an intruder is present in the building.
- We have routine drills in the case of fire, shelter in place and lockdown.
- We have fostered a sense of community for our students that allows information/concerns/possible threats to be shared.

Finally, how do we cope with these events and talk with our children? I believe we need to reassure our children that they are safe and be supportive of them. In a training we provide to our staff we talk about how to be supportive. To be supportive we must be empathetic and nonjudgmental. We talk at the pace they dictate. Ultimately how we respond determines how our children respond, this is called the integrated experience. It is critically important, especially after the last week and a half, that the school and home are aligned in our support. As always, parents can reach out to the child's school for support. However, I have included some resources for you below.

I pray that these senseless killings never happen again. I also wish for all of us to practice loving one another and remember to treat each other with dignity and respect.

Sincerely,

Steven Wright
Superintendent

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Resources (click on links)

- [Coping After Mass Violence](#)
- [For Teens: Coping After Mass Violence\(En Español\)](#)
- [Assisting Parents/Caregivers in Coping with Collective Traumas](#)
- [Helping Youth after Community Trauma: Tips for Educators\(En Español\)](#)
- [Addressing Race and Trauma in the Classroom: A Resource for Educators](#)
- [Talking with Children about Hate Crimes and Anti-Semitism](#)
- [Parent Guidelines for Helping Youth After Mass Violence](#)
- [Talking to Children about Mass Violence](#)
- [Teacher Guidelines for Helping Students after Mass Violence](#)
- [Psychological Impact of Mass Violence](#)
- [Racial Injustices and Trauma: African Americans in the US: NCTSN Position Statement](#)
- [Helping Teens with Traumatic Grief: Tips for Caregivers\(En Español\)](#)
- [Helping School-Age Children with Traumatic Grief: Tips for Caregivers \(En Español\)](#)
- [Helping Young Children with Traumatic Grief: Tips for Caregivers\(En Español\)](#)
- [The Power of Parenting: How to Help Your Child After a Parent or Caregiver Dies](#)
- [After a Crisis: Helping Young Children Heal](#)
- [Age-Related Reactions to a Traumatic Event](#)
- [Once I Was Very Very Scared – children’s book for young children](#)
- [Pause-Reset-Nourish \(PRN\) to Promote Wellbeing \(En Español\) \(for responders\)](#)

Psychological First Aid and Skills for Psychological Recovery

The NCTSN also has resources for responders on [Psychological First Aid](#) (PFA; [En Español](#)). PFA is an early intervention to support children, adolescents, adults, and families impacted by these types of events. [PFA Mobile](#) and the [PFA Wallet Card](#) ([En Español](#)) provide a quick reminder of the core actions. The [PFA online training](#) course is also available on the NCTSN Learning Center. PFA Handouts include:

- [Parent Tips for Helping Infants and Toddlers \(En Español\)](#)
- [Parent Tips for Helping Preschoolers \(En Español\)](#)
- [Parent Tips for Helping School-Age Children \(En Español\)](#)
- [Parent Tips for Helping Adolescents \(En Español\)](#)
- [Tips for Adults \(En Español\)](#)

From the National Mass Violence and Victimization Resource Center

- [Transcend](#) (mobile app to assist with recovery after mass violence)
- [Rebuild your Community: Resources for Community Leaders](#)
- [Media Guidelines for Homicide Family Survivors](#)
- [Timeline of Activities to Promote Mental Health Recovery](#)
- [Self-Help: Resources for Survivors](#)
- [E-learning Courses: Trainings for Clinicians](#)
- [Resources for Victim Assistance Professionals](#)

From the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress at the Uniformed Services University

- [Grief Leadership: Leadership in the Wake of Tragedy](#)
- [Leadership Communication: Anticipating and Responding to Stressful Events](#)
- [Coping with Stress Following a Mass Shooting](#)