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Communicating During a World Crisis

1 message

Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools <noreply@collsk12.org>

Fri, Oct 13, 2023 at 8:45 AM

Reply-To: noreply@collsk12.org

To: jboulden@oaklynschool.org

Dear Collingswood and Oaklyn Families,

I come to you with a heavy heart as a school community member and father; as my newsfeed has been bombarded with images I won't soon forget. As violent conflicts continue in the Middle East following weekend attacks in Israel and airstrikes in Gaza, wide-reaching impacts are being felt by students and families across the United States and within our region.

As school community members, we may feel moved to share messages with our students, families, and friends about these current events. Emotional and economic impacts can be felt at home by all, especially our young people and those with connections to the region. As neighbors, we must ensure that we provide a safe space for all members of our school community to learn about current events and process their emotions. As parents and caregivers this may be especially difficult to talk about with our children. Please be mindful of the importance of monitoring social media as there is a lot of graphic content circulating which can be traumatic for anyone seeing it.

Below are a few resources that may be helpful:

- [Supporting Youth Affected by the Violence in Israel and Gaza: Tips for Families and Educators](#) (National Association of School Psychologists) 2023
- [Talking to Children About War](#) (National Child Traumatic Stress Network)
- [Helping Students in Troubling Times](#) (American School Counselor Association)
- [Responsible Media Coverage of Crisis Events Impacting Children and Youth](#) (National Association of School Psychologists)

In addition, our schools are taking the recent events very seriously with continued emphasis on the safety of students and staff and mental health resources for anyone who may be in need. We are in close contact with local law enforcement and will continue to monitor the situation as collaborative partners. Should you have questions or concerns about your child's school, please don't hesitate to contact the school's main office.

Respectfully,

Fred McDowell, Ed.D.
Superintendent