



# Westhill CSD

May 24, 2022

Dear Westhill Families and Staff,

There are no words to describe the pain and heartbreak associated with the tragic events that took place in Uvalde, Texas at Robb Elementary School today. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the students, teachers, school staff, families and their entire community.

As a parent of four I have struggled every single time a school shooting has taken place. What do I say to my kids? Should I say anything to them? It's okay to be unsure of what to do. This is a link to the National Association of School Psychologists web page on Talking to Children About Violence which may help: [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#). Whether you are in education or not, we can all use some extra help figuring out what to do and how to go about talking to our kids.

The emotional toll of these types of events is heavy. It's unimaginable. It's scary. It's painful. It's sickening to experience these events over and over again and feel that nothing seems to change. Our lack of action is unconscionable. I don't understand why we aren't willing to truly address gun violence in this country and why we don't prioritize mental health supports for everyone. Are we really a nation that is willing to accept this type of tragedy multiple times each year and simply just move on?

As a district, we take very seriously the emotional impact an event like this may have on our students, staff and community. Our Mental Health Team is prepared and available for any students that need to talk. Additionally, if you know anyone who needs support, please do not hesitate to reach out to a trusted counselor, administrator, faculty, or staff member.

Please be there for each other and do the best you can to help our students, colleagues and neighbors deal with the emotions of this heartbreaking tragedy. And please take care of yourself. If you need help, ask for it.

Steve Dunham  
Superintendent of Scho