



Dear IEA Community,

We are heartbroken to once again be writing to you in regards to a horrific national tragedy. The elementary school shooting in Texas is devastating, bringing back horrible reminders of the tragedy in Newtown that we hoped would never be repeated; an attack on society's youngest and most vulnerable in a place that should unquestioningly be safe. The loss of these twenty one lives is unfathomable and our hearts are with all the families of Robb Elementary School.

Every act of violence, but especially those in schools, can cause fear and uncertainty. Please be assured, there is no greater priority to us than your child's safety.

To ensure your child's physical safety, we have a number of procedures in place. We regularly undergo safety audits with the West Hartford Police Department to ensure our policies, procedures and physical building are up-to-date and secure. As you know, all entrances at IEA are locked at all times. Staff may enter with their key fobs and all others must be buzzed in through the main office doors. No one is permitted entry into the school through any other door. Our new key fob system also offers additional safety measures that can be implemented if necessary. Additionally, we have a variety of safety drills (in addition to fire drills) to prepare for threats both inside and outside our school. We will let you know before the next drill is held.

This is an incredibly difficult topic for both children and adults. You will find some resources below that can support you during these conversations, however, please do not hesitate to reach out to anyone at the school if you need additional support. Please know, IEA remains a safe place for your child.

- [The National Child Trauma Stress Network](#) (includes resources in both English and Spanish)
- [Tips for Talking to Children About Violence](#), National Association of School Psychologists
- [Anxiety Over School Shootings: Finding Proactive Ways to Deal with Worried Feelings](#), Child Mind Institute
- [Talking to your child about tragedy: Six tips for the autism community](#), Autism Speaks

Again, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here for you and your child.

Sincerely,

Jeff Forman, Deven Constant & Danielle Clermont
Executive Director & Directors of Education

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IEA is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit, State of CT approved special educational facility, and ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph.