



Colleen Burns Jermain, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

15 Wickham Road • Newport, Rhode Island 02840-3898
Telephone 401.847.2100 Ext. 5376 • ColleenJermain@npsri.net

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Dear Newport Public Schools Parents, Guardians, Families and Staff,

I want to commend Principal Vance and his entire leadership team, the teachers, staff, Directors, and our community partners, as well as our support staff from all our schools that came to provide counseling and assistance today at RHS. Thank you to everyone.

As we begin this weekend, we thought it may be helpful to provide some additional support for you, our children and community.

Tomorrow on Saturday, May 11th, Thompson Middle School will be open from 11am-1pm for on-site support with our staff. No appointment is necessary. You/or your child may just drop in if you have questions or need additional resources to help cope with this recent event.

Next week we will have support continue throughout the school day for our students and staff. We strongly recommend all students be present on Monday where we can provide the support they need and have someone available on site. We urge you to make every effort to have your child in school or at the very least please make certain they are with an adult or other persons if they are unable to attend on Monday. Our young people need our support- and here at school we have the resources to provide them.

As you support your child during this difficult time, please be on the lookout for any of the following behaviors:

1. Withdrawal from friends and family members,
2. Changes in eating and sleeping patterns,
3. Neglect of personal appearance,
4. Lack of response to praise,
5. Increased irritability, and /or
6. References to self-harm and plans of suicide either in person or via social media.

If you do notice an uptick in any of these behaviors please talk to your child/ or seek assistance from any of the many resources you can access [here](#) or call the hotline at 988.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone during this very difficult time.

Sincerely,

Colleen Burns Jermain, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools