

CENTER LINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Center Line Community,

Unfortunately, today we were made aware of a school tragedy in Maryland. We care deeply for our students and we grieve what is happening in schools and other public places. We are ALL committed to doing everything in our power to be as proactive as possible and as practiced as we can be in case of an emergency.

Since the first tragedy in Columbine, we have worked with staff and students on crisis planning and practice drills. We have woven in direct instruction for students to improve coping skills and increase our students' abilities to work through problems. We have hired additional mental health staff in each building, and we have worked hard to get to know each of our students. We have met with key Center Line personnel including public safety officials, the mayor, a council member, and the head of security at St. John, Macomb and shared ideas of how else we can partner together to provide continued services to our students and families. We held two community forums on school safety with Center Line and Warren public safety officials, and we will continue to meet with city officials and school staff to make sure our schools are secure and our students feel safe.

Please encourage students to talk to a trusted adult if they see or hear something that is concerning. Students and adults alike can use the Michigan.gov confidential tip reporting system, **OK2SAY**. You can call 1-855-OK2SAY, text, email, or submit tips through the program's website, www.okay2say.com.

Our counselors are always available to students and families to help with communicating about difficult topics such as this. Another good resource is "Coping with Community Crisis" from Harvard Graduate School of Education: <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/16/07/coping-community-crisis>.

Thank you for working with us as we wrap around our students to provide a sense of safety, belonging, and community. Strong schools = strong community. Together we can!

Eve Kaltz

Eve Kaltz
Superintendent

