

Thomas A. Smith, Ed.D. *Superintendent* 

## PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 11, 2023

Dear Pennsbury School Community:

One of the challenges of living in a connected age is that our students are sometimes inundated with images of events taking place across the world in real-time. These events may be difficult to process for many of our students. The Pennsbury community is home to families with cultural ties to Israel, Palestine, and the geopolitical region known as the Middle East. Concerns have also been raised about possible protests occurring in Philadelphia and surrounding areas.

In my time at Pennsbury, I have witnessed excellent instruction by experienced educators. I am confident that if asked, they can use these opportunities as teachable moments to assist students in processing these events professionally and without bias.

Our teachers and staff members work diligently to create a safe space and support our students; however, if your child is struggling to process any of the recent events, please reach out to your child's school counselor. I'm also sharing the resources below to provide additional support and guidance to our families.

Thank you for your continued support of the Pennsbury School District.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Smith, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools tsmith@pennsburysd.org 215-428-4111

Social and Emotional Resources for the Classroom and Home

- How to Talk to Kids About Violence, Crime, and War: Common Sense Media gathers tips and conversation starters to help you talk to kids of different ages about the toughest topics.
- <u>Talking to Your Kids About War</u>: VeryWell Family explores ways families can speak with young people about war, including tips on sharing information and restricting media coverage.
- How to Talk to Your Children About Conflict and War: UNICEF's guide offers eight tips to support and comfort your children.
- <u>Handle with Care: Supporting Young People During Crises</u>: Learning for Justice offers recommendations
  and resources to help guide conversations with young people and to manage potential subsequent
  actions and reactions.

MISSION

Recognizing our proud traditions and diverse community, the Pennsbury School District prepares all students to become creative, ethical, and critical thinkers for lifelong success in a global society.