



May 25, 2022

Dear Students, Staff, Families, and Community of the Horseheads Central School District:

Our hearts are with the school community in Uvalde, Texas, following the school shooting at Robb Elementary School. This senseless loss of life, especially young life, affects us to our core. It is difficult to find the words to express our sadness, frustration, and anger. This tragedy, like so many others, increases our concern about our own children.

The district understands that this tragedy may cause students, staff – all of us – to feel helpless and struggle with our daily activities. Know that we are here to assist any student or staff member who is affected by this tragedy. If your child is struggling with this or any difficult topic, please contact your school office, and we will do all we can to provide assistance. We must look out for each other, in times like this and always.

This tragedy reminds us of the importance of being vigilant as we work together to keep our community safe. We encourage everyone in our community – students, parents, residents – to speak up when they see or hear anything that causes a concern for the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, and schools. Contact me, a principal, counselor, resource officer, and/or any adult in our schools, or law enforcement.

Additionally, remember the district's 24-hour confidential Safe Schools Line for students, parents, and the community to use to report concerns, rumors, and other safety issues. The numbers for our Safe Schools Line are **607-795-2044 or 1-800-305-4984**. Know that we are here to listen to your concerns, and we ask that you use this line, or talk to someone in our district or law enforcement, if you hear a rumor rather than sharing it on social media. This way the issue can be addressed as quickly as possible. If you call our Safe Schools Line, please provide detailed information and contact information.

As a reminder, we review our safety procedures annually, but tragedies like this lead us to engage in immediate discussions of our protocols. We routinely work with local law enforcement including our school resource officers to determine what improvements can be made, and we will continue to do so. Currently, the state requires schools to conduct both fire drills and lockdown drills, and many of our schools have been conducting these drills recently. We understand that the drills, while important to practice, can also cause anxiety. Please talk with your children about the importance of practicing these safety drills.

Thank you for your understanding, support, and care for our children, our schools, and our community. We must work together to create as safe an environment as possible for everyone in our school community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas  
Superintendent of Schools