

Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District

Mrs. Andrea L. Galenski
Superintendent of Schools
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May 15, 2022

Dear Cheektowaga-Sloan Community,

It is with great sadness and heartfelt despair that this message is sent today.

Yesterday was a deeply tragic day for Buffalo, all of the surrounding communities, and especially for those family members, loved ones, and friends who senselessly lost their precious lives during the Tops Market act of violence. This type of hatred that brought about yesterday's tragedy has no place in our society. Each day in our schools, we work to promote a respectful environment that focuses on embracing each other's differences, celebrating the uniqueness of each individual, building trusting and positive relationships, and working together to bring peace and love to everyone's life, our society, and the world.

We extend our deepest sympathy to all of those families and friends who lost loved ones yesterday and we pray for them during this incredibly sad and difficult time. Please join all of us in the Cheektowaga-Sloan School District by forging ahead in unity to make an even stronger impact with our children as we model and demonstrate the importance of love, care for one another, respect for each other's differences, and the critical importance of recognizing the need to have an open mind where we can work together to bring peace and respect to all.

Our school administrators and mental health professionals are here for all of our children and staff should anyone require assistance in how to process this tragic event that brought such upset and shock to Western New York yesterday. We are providing a link below to a resource from the National Association of School Psychologists that may be helpful in supporting your family at home especially if your child(ren) have any questions which can be difficult to answer.

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-safety-and-crisis/school-violence-resources/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-and-teachers>

Together, we stand in solidarity and pray for everyone who was impacted by yesterday's distressing events and in heart and spirit and through our actions, we pray for peace in our society and in the world in which we live.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Galenski
Superintendent of Schools

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Our mission is to provide a positive academic and social learning environment that fosters independence, responsibility, life-long learning and student success.