



Dear MSD Decatur Families and Staff,

As student safety is our top priority, this is an important message about suicide prevention and awareness. The Netflix Series *13 Reasons Why*, is trending nationally and in our school community. It is a 13 hour series depicting themes of suicide, bullying, sexual assault, drug use and other social issues. This series is generating concern among mental health experts and has been criticized for not presenting viable alternatives to suicide.

13 Reasons Why is rated TV-MA. If you and your family decide to watch this series, please take the opportunity to speak with your children about the issues presented in this show. Experts feel the series may romanticize suicide instead of encouraging teenagers to seek help from family and counselors. As you have meaningful conversations with your children, please remember to list the caring counselors, teachers and administrators of Decatur Township Schools as an important part of their support network. This letter is the beginning of an ongoing dialogue about the health and safety of our students.

Suicide is NEVER the answer, and I want to take a moment to share these important resources with our Decatur Township community. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can be reached at 1-800-273-TALK or text 741741. Prevention and awareness support is also available at www.suicide.org. If you are concerned about a student, we encourage you to ACT- Acknowledge, Care and Tell. Our dedicated staff is here, every day, to support our students as they learn, grow.

Please do not hesitate to [contact your child's school](#) for additional resources as your family navigates the difficult issues presented in this TV Show. You often hear me say that we are Student Invested, Community Connected. I would like to thank our entire Decatur Township Community for working together to ensure that our children have a safe environment in which they can follow their dreams. Nothing is more important than the safety of our children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Prusiecki
Superintendent
Decatur Township Schools

