

Resources for Families

When serious incidents occur, as adult caregivers it is sometimes difficult to know what to say and how to respond to children's questions and concerns. This is especially true when the situation involves the alleged sexual misconduct by an adult towards a child. We offer the following resources to help parents support their children.

Suggestions for Talking with Your Child

- Students can display a wide range of differing responses to news of traumatic events, which is completely expected. Some students might be disinterested while others might have an intense emotional reaction. Monitor your child's stress level and seek help when necessary.
- Take advantage of this teachable moment in your child's life. Don't be afraid to bring up this difficult topic, especially if you think your child may have heard about it from other students.
- Start by **listening**; ask your child what reactions, thoughts, feelings about the situation they have observed in our school community.
- Alternatively, you might provide them with a mentor who both you and your child trust.
- Your conversation can include discussion of preventive steps to take, how to handle difficult situations, and most importantly, when to reach out to an adult for help.
- Take your cues from your child as to how much, or little, they want to focus on and discuss these events.