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## Byron Area Schools

Dear Families,

December 1, 2021

We are sure you are aware there was a shooting at Oxford High School yesterday afternoon, with known injuries and fatalities. While we all try to comprehend this devastating news, we extend healing thoughts and prayers to the entire Oxford Schools' community. The events have certainly shaken the educational community, not only across Michigan, but across the United States. We cannot fathom what the Oxford community must be experiencing right now. When something like this occurs, it shakes our sense of normalcy and security. The next few days or weeks might not run as smoothly as we had planned given recent events.

Each of you will respond to this in your own way emotionally and will form your own opinions on the matter. Everyone will process these events differently, and we would ask that you treat each other with extra kindness and respect today and in the coming days. I hope we can agree that it's important for our kids to provide a caring environment, not only for them, but also for each other.

Please know, in Byron Area Schools, we continue to be committed to the safety and security of our students and staff. Over the past years, our staff members have been trained in lockdown and Active Shooter protocols. We have a strong partnership with our local, county and state law enforcement agencies. We continue to review all of our safety and security protocols to provide a safe environment for all. We consistently review resources and training needs to keep our students and staff safe. We also work with a professional consulting company to review best practices.

As a reminder, we ask all of our school community members to continue to report all suspicious or threatening activity, including social media posts, to law enforcement and/or school officials immediately. It takes all of us to remain vigilant to protect our Byron Area Schools' family.

There are no words for the emotions we are all feeling due to this tremendous tragedy. Please take care of yourself and reach out if you need support. We have access to social workers and counselors that can help students to process the feelings they may have about school following this incident. In addition, the following links may be helpful in discussing this incident with your child(ren):

- <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>
- <http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/talking-to-children.aspx>
- <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/16/07/coping-community-crisis>

Thank you for your continued support of Byron Area Schools. We will get through this by supporting each other and working together.

Respectfully,

The Administrative Team at Byron Area Schools