



# KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT

601 Crawford Street • Kelso, WA 98626 • 360.501.1900 • [kelso.wednet.edu](http://kelso.wednet.edu) • [#WeAreKelso](https://www.instagram.com/wearekelso)

May 25, 2022

Dear Kelso School District Community,

There are no words to adequately express the deep sorrow I feel for the victims of yesterday's tragic mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Every family should be able to send their child to school and expect them to come home. My heart is broken, and my thoughts are with the community at this unimaginable time.

This is difficult to process, as a parent I am struggling with you. Acts of violence such as these are especially disturbing and frightening because they could have happened anywhere. There are many things we as adults can do to reassure our students of their safety at school.

As our children learn of this event, it is important to know it may cause them to question their own safety in our schools. While we cannot give our students a guarantee that nothing bad will ever happen to them, we can reassure them the adults around them will do everything in their power to keep them safe.

Safety and security is a top priority in Kelso School District. As part of the improvements we've been able to make due to the bond and levy passages, we have done and are still doing a tremendous amount of work to improve our safety and security all over the district, including:

- All schools are on a district-wide security monitoring system with remote lockdown capabilities
- Secure entries with card reader access and camera systems
- New and renovated schools have a secure vestibule design ensuring all visitors go through the office first, and classrooms are designed to allow occupants to be out of the line of site during a lockdown
- Additionally, we take all threats seriously, investigate and take appropriate precautions

Our goal is to provide the safest possible environment for our kids and employees and we will continue working hard to maintain and achieve this.

Our [Online Anonymous Security/Safety Reporting Form](#) (also on our website under Menu / How Do I...) can help get information to those that can provide support and proactively intervene. Please encourage your students to report concerns to a trusted adult or anonymously through the online tip reporting system linked above.

Additionally, we will continue to implement mental health supports for our students so that when they feel lost or hopeless, they have a place to turn for help.

Families and staff are encouraged to visit the following resources to help talk with their kids about this tragic event.

**Resources:**

[Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#) – *National Association of School Psychologists*

[Talking to Kids About Fear and Violence](#) – *Mental Health America*

[How to Talk to Kids About Tragedies in the Media](#) – *Child Development Institute*

We will continue to support students by providing them with opportunities for extra support if needed and keep our routines as normal as possible to help students feel secure. You can help your child by simply talking and listening to them.

We don't always know how a student will be affected in a crisis, but you know your children the best of anyone. Due to previous similar events or losses, if you feel your child needs to visit with someone, please let your school know.

Sometimes the only good we can find in such a tragedy is how it reminds us to hug our loved ones tighter and appreciate what we have. It also strengthens our resolve and sense of urgency around providing mental health supports for our students.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to email me.

Please take good care of yourselves.

Gratefully,

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent  
Kelso School District  
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