



Subject: Support During Trial

*Sent on Behalf of Dr. Amanda Cribbs, EdD, Superintendent*

To our Friends, Families, Colleagues, and the Jewish Community:

With the Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting trial set to begin next week, we are reminded of the senseless tragedy that took place during Shabbat morning services on Oct. 27, 2018. Pittsburgh is a small, closely knit community, and many of us will face the challenges of rehearing, reseeing, and reliving the events that took place on that day in the coming weeks and months beyond as this high profile trial progresses.

In light of resurfacing media reports and an increase in news regarding the trial, please know that ECS's student services team is available with open arms in support of our students, families, and community. The district strives to provide an educational space that combats hate and fosters an environment of compassion, empathy, and unity.

As a parent myself, I understand the tremendous difficulties of explaining our world to our children, and when it is this close to home, in the very heart of our community, we are tasked with balancing what we hear through news sources, what we ourselves feel, and what is age appropriate for our children.

Here are some resources to consider:

- [10.27 Healing Partnership: Resources](#)
- [Talking to Kids About Hate Crimes and Antisemitism](#)
- [Practical Advice for Parents: How to Help Your Child Following a Trauma](#)
- [The Caring Place: What is Grief?](#)
- [Common Sense Media: Explaining the News to Our Kids](#)

Together, we work to build each other up, be kind to one another, and stand in solidarity in support of healing and to inspire love and peace throughout our community. In the coming weeks, take action by:

- [Supporting Your Neighbors](#)
- [Volunteering](#) in the community.
- Showing solidarity by displaying [blue ribbons](#).

If you believe your child is in need of support as we prepare for and live through this event, please reach out to your building principal, school counselor, or school social worker. Additionally, the [10.27 Healing Partnership](#) is offering free drop in counseling hours at their location in the Jewish Community Center.

We are all here in support of students' needs and their well being.