

Dear WPS Families,

We are reaching out this morning to offer our support to WPS children and families impacted by the violence unfolding in Israel and Gaza and to share helpful school and community based resources.

Our students, staff, and families are watching news unfold in real-time from a wide array of media and social media outlets. Many members of our community are from and/or have close ties to Israel and Gaza. Other members of our community have faced conflicts in their home countries. If your child needs additional support, resources are in place both within and outside of the schools.

We understand that families make a range of choices about what information to share with their children, and we respect the decisions you make. Below are some resources that you may want to use at home should your children raise questions about these acts of violence or need support and guidance:

[How to Talk to Children About Conflict and War](#) (Unicef)

[How to Talk to Kids About Violence, Crime, and War](#) (Common Sense Media tips and conversation starters to help you talk to kids of different ages about the toughest topics)

[Tips for Parents and Educators - Talking to Children about Violence](#) (Infographic from National Association of School Psychologists)

If your child is impacted and struggling at school, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school principal, school psychologist or guidance counselor. In addition, Westwood Youth and Family Services (781-320-1006) provides free counseling services for children and families in need of support during and after school hours.

Our thoughts are with families impacted by the crisis. I know we all share the hope of a quick return to peace.

Sincerely,

Tim Piwowar