

RIDGEFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



BECKY LAUS
PRINCIPAL
Barlow Mountain Elementary



KEITH MARGOLUS
PRINCIPAL
Branchville Elementary



NANCY CARON
PRINCIPAL
Farmingville Elementary



JAMIE PALLADINO
PRINCIPAL
Ridgebury Elementary



JILL KATKOCIN
PRINCIPAL
Scotland Elementary



ELLEN TUCKNER
PRINCIPAL
Veterans Park Elementary

May 25, 2022

Dear Ridgefield Elementary Schools Families,

Our hearts are with the Robb Elementary School community during this tragic time. Yesterday's event continues to shake us to the core and yet we remain focused on the children we serve and our community. As you have likely read in Dr. Da Silva's message, security procedures and protocols have been reviewed and we will continue to act with vigilance. Our schools work closely with our Ridgefield Police School Resource Officers (SROs) and we are grateful for their partnership. We also want to let you know what is in place to support students and to provide you with resources should you need them.

As much as we would like to think that our students will be insulated from atrocities, in our media rich world, students will inevitably hear about the event that took place yesterday. We encourage you to do your best to reduce these moments with our young children. Students' expressions of fear can manifest itself in many forms. It may look like students directly mentioning their fears or it may appear as a student who is unusually moody, active, or disengaged. These are signs our staff look for and we encourage you to also consider at home. If a student does need support, our school psychologists and staff are here to support them. Overall, we keep our message simple, as young children need reassurance. Simple statements such as, "All of the adults at our school are here to keep you safe." If it comes up in a whole class discussion, you can expect that we will acknowledge when necessary and move the class on. We will follow up with individual students expressing concerns. In the event that we have an individual conversation with your child because they are showing signs of concern, a staff member will reach out and let you know that a conversation occurred.

If you are looking for resources to support your child, below you will find some guidance. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us and or our school psychologists if you have further questions. Below you will find the school psychologist contact information for each school.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the community of Uvalde, Texas.

Respectfully,

Becky Laus
Jamie Palladino

Keith L. Margolus
Jill Katkocin

Nancy Caron
Ellen Tuckner

Resources:

[NASP Talking to Children about Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)

[How to Talk to Your Children About School Shootings](#)

[Talking to Young Children about Violence in the Community](#)

Reach out to your school psychologist at any time.

SCHOOL	NAME	CONTACT INFO
BMES	Kiera Russo Kimberly Zuker	krusso@ridgefieldps.net kzucker@ridgefieldps.net
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RES	Kathryn Thamsen Alisa Wood	kthamsen@ridgefieldps.net awood@ridgefieldps.net
SES	Melissa Gaitho Kimberly Zuker	mgaitho@ridgefieldps.net kzucker@ridgefieldps.net
VPES	Jeff Lovelace Staci Day	jlovelace@ridgefieldps.net sday@ridgefieldps.net