



December 8, 2021

Dear RPSA Families,

In light of recent events in schools across our state and county, we are including a few resources to assist you in having discussions and answering questions for your children about school violence.

- [“Talking To Your Children About Violence”](#) from the National Association of School Psychologists
- [Suggestions from the American Psychological Association](#) regarding talking to your children about school shootings
- [Contact information for local crisis lines](#)

Every member of the RPSA staff is committed to supporting students and families in these discussions.

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of our staff at any time if you have questions or concerns about school safety at Renaissance.

FAQs for Parents

Why is it important for parents to talk with their children about this tragedy that happened so far away?

- Children are likely to hear about it through social media, TV, etc. and it's important for parents to help ensure children have accurate information, understand what they've heard, and have the opportunity to get support from their parents.
- Providing information and support to children helps them build coping skills and helps children see their parents as a resource when they have questions about difficult topics

What should parents tell children?

- It's a good idea to ask what they know or have heard about the tragedy first, so that you can confirm or correct the information they have.
- Use age-appropriate language, i.e. keep it to the basics for younger children and use clear, concrete language.
- Find out if your child has questions and answer them honestly – if you don't have an answer, say so.
- Help build your child's emotional vocabulary – identify and label your feelings, and help them do the same.

How do children react to this kind of news?

- Each child is different – some don't show much reaction, and others may react with fear or sadness, in varying degrees.
- Children who have experienced violence or loss may react more strongly.
- Children may need extra reassurance and comfort.
- Some children may need to revisit the topic again and again – be patient and repeat information as needed.
- Don't offer false reassurance, e.g. “that won't happen here”. Instead, focus on safety measures and community helpers who help keep us safe.

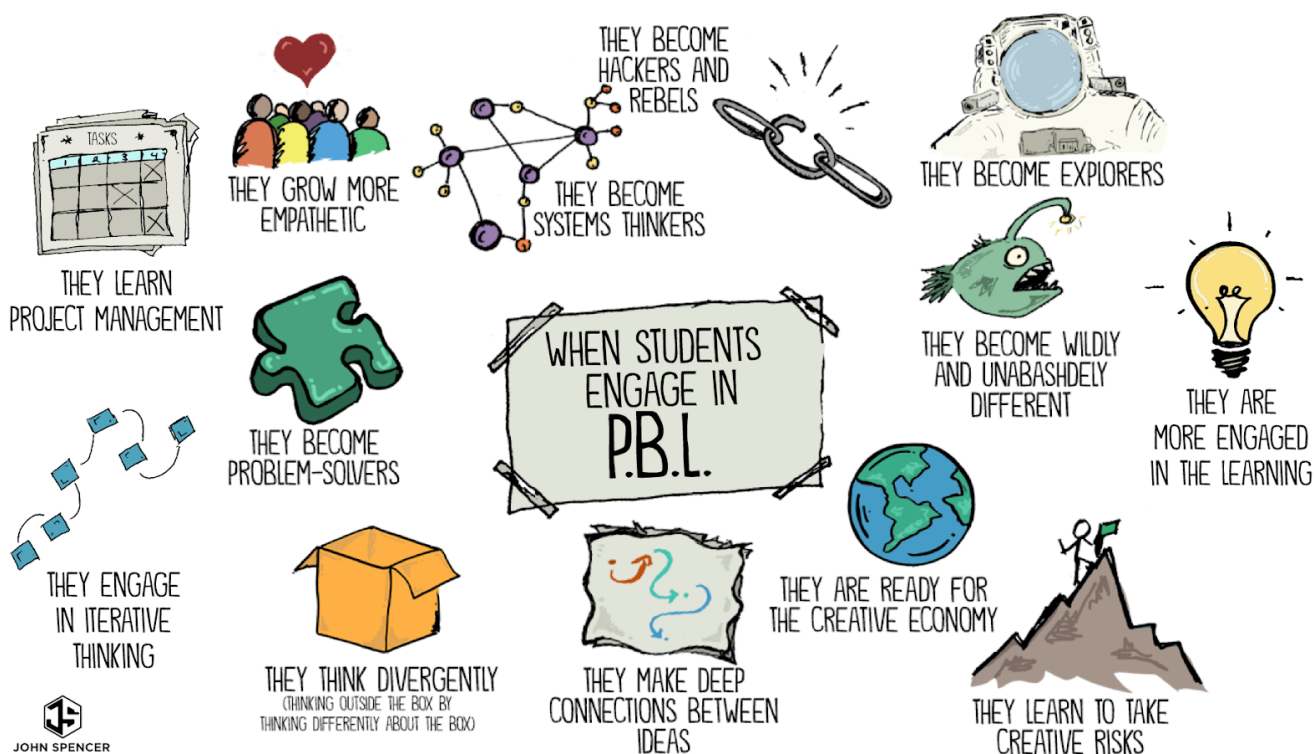
- Limit exposure to media reports so that children aren't over-exposed to frightening images.

What if children ask "Why?"

- It's important for children to find ways to make sense of a tragedy like this, and this often starts with asking "Why?"
- Parents can acknowledge that we don't know what the person was thinking, but there is never a good reason to hurt people.
- Let your child know that even when we can't understand why things happen, we can learn to solve problems nonviolently and treat people well in our own lives.

What is Project Based Learning?

At RPSA our students have the opportunity to participate in several Project Based Learning (PBL) units throughout the year. PBL is a teaching method in which students learn by actively engaging in real world and meaningful projects.



Your child may come home talking about topics they are engrossed in as a class; PBL generates lots of excitement for learning. Parents are often invited to participate as audience members at culminating events and learning celebrations. Here are some great questions to ask your child at home to learn more about the work they are doing:

- ★ What project are you working on right now?
- ★ What have you learned about that topic?
- ★ What are your goals for this project?
- ★ How are you working with classmates on this project?
- ★ What are you most excited to learn about right now?

Next Week is RPSA Spirit Week - Join in the Fun!

Week of		December 13th - 17th, 2021		
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Baby It's Cold Outside</p> <p>Wear your favorite hat and/or scarf.</p>	<p style="color: green;">Land of the Mismatch Clothes</p> <p>Wear your best mismatched outfit.</p>	<p style="color: green;">Deck The Halls</p> <p>Wear your happiest or ugliest sweater, shirt, or tie.</p>	<p style="color: red;">Holly Jolly Elf Gear</p> <p>Wear Red and Green</p>	<p style="color: blue;">Long Winter's Nap</p> <p>Wear your pajamas to school.</p>

ANNUAL NOTICE OF PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

Renaissance Public School Academy is required to make available a Notice of Pesticide Applications to the parents of Academy students on an annual basis. You can view the document by clicking on the link below.

[Notice of Pesticides Application](#)

UPCOMING SCHOOL CALENDAR EVENTS

- Winter Holiday Break begins Monday, Dec. 20
- School Resumes Monday, January 3, 2022
- Monday, January 17 - NO SCHOOL - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Monday, February 7 - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS - Staff PD Day
- NO SCHOOL - Spring Break - Monday, March 28, 2022-Friday, April 1, 2022