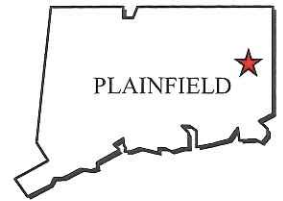




# PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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Christi Haskell, Interim Chair  
Board of Education

Kenneth R. Di Pietro  
Superintendent of Schools

May 10, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Schools and mental health professionals throughout the state are warning parents about the Netflix series, "13 Reasons Why". The series, which is based on a novel by the same title is about a 17 year-old girl named Hannah who commits suicide and leaves behind 13 cassette tapes explaining the reasons why she came to the decision to end her life. The series can be viewed as an intensely powerful, graphic, and troubling depiction of suicide, rape, substance use/abuse, drunk driving, gun violence and bullying, and could pose a risk for vulnerable youth.

This series is being viewed more and more by our young adults. We encourage you to speak with your child if they are watching the series as it may be best if they had an adult with whom they can process after viewing. Please take the time to discuss supports available for your student at home and school.

In our schools, please know that there are many caring adults who will help if a student identifies with a situation similar to Hannah's in the show. Our school counselors, social workers, and psychologists are always available to meet with students and are trained in suicide prevention awareness and follow specific protocols to address any mental health concerns.

To facilitate conversations there are several resources listed below that can serve as a good guideline to talk about this difficult subject. We are attempting to bring awareness to this series due to the content and nature of the scenarios. Although the show says mature audiences, the content and the suggestiveness around sexual assault and suicide is very intense. The community needs to be aware of what students are watching and what support options are available.

Helpful Resources:

Prevent Suicide CT – [www.preventsuicidect.org](http://www.preventsuicidect.org)

American Foundation of Suicide Prevention – [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org)

Suicide Prevention Resource Center – [www.sprc.org](http://www.sprc.org)

Brian Dagle Foundation – [www.brianshealinghearts.org](http://www.brianshealinghearts.org)

[https://www.save.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/13RW-Talking-Points-Final\\_v5.pdf](https://www.save.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/13RW-Talking-Points-Final_v5.pdf)

We are enclosing helpful literature and encourage parents to contact our support staff at school if you have any further questions.

Natasha Hutchinson  
PMS Principal

Scott Gagnon  
PCS Principal

James Worth  
PHS Principal

Kenneth Di Pietro  
Superintendent