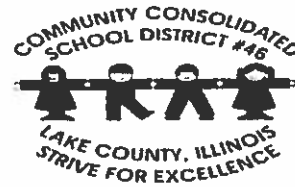


Community Consolidated School District 46



565 Frederick Road • Grayslake • Illinois • 60030 (847) 223-3650 FAX (847) 223-3695

Ellen L. Correll
Superintendent
correll.ellen@d46.org

May 5, 2017

Dear D46 Parents and Guardians,

Some of you may be aware of the new Netflix series *13 Reasons Why*, which many teens are watching. This series is based on a book by Jay Asher. The series follows a group of high school students as they piece together a story left behind for them by their classmate, Hannah Baker, who died by suicide. This is a fictional series, rated TVMA, which means it may not be suited for children under the age of 17. While the show has seen praise from critics for its content, many mental health experts have been critical of the show for the lack of addressing mental illness or providing examples of how suicide can be avoided.

With so many students having access to Netflix in private through their phones or other devices and in some cases, sharing their Netflix passwords with their friends, it is important that you are aware of this series, its popularity and its mature content. In addition to suicide, there are a number of other difficult themes touched upon such as bullying, sexual assault, depression and drug use.

While this program may raise useful discussions between children and adults, the message we want to send to our young people is that suicide is never the answer, there is no shame in asking for help and that there are healthy ways to cope when having suicidal thoughts. If children are permitted to watch the series, we encourage parents to watch the episodes with your children. According to the Centers for Disease Control, suicide is the third leading cause of death for children between the ages of 10 and 14. Please know that our school social workers, psychologists and administrators are available to assist should you have any questions or concerns about this topic.

Sincerely,


Ellen Correll
Superintendent

Community Consolidated School District 46 will provide an educational environment that maximizes the potential of ALL students to be prepared for life's opportunities while developing a lasting appreciation for learning.