



*Innovation • Inspiration • Excellence for All*

May 25, 2022

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**Dr. Edwin M. Quezada**  
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Yonkers Learning Community,

Yesterday, once again, our country and community are reeling from an unimaginable tragedy, the loss of 19 beautiful children and 2 magnificent teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Another senseless mass shooting took place in America by a misguided young man still in high school who had access to guns. Our hearts and prayers are with the families and the community struggling with unimaginable grief for their children, spouses, family members or friends.

Over the next weeks, there will be ongoing newscasts as we learn more about the children whose laughter and joy will no longer be heard, the teachers who taught their last class on May 24, 2022 and the young man who took all of their lives. We must be prepared to help our children, our students and ourselves make sense of a senseless act.

In Yonkers our work is focused on creating caring, safe school communities where adults and students respect and trust each other. We want our students to feel connected, understand expectations, and receive the behavioral and mental health support they need. Our schools have Pupil Support Teams on-site offering counseling and psychological supports, where bullying is not tolerated and where we work proactively to address behaviors that could become unsafe. I encourage anyone who needs help for themselves or for their child to contact their child's school for guidance and information.

Everyone makes mistakes; children are not exempt. It is up to the adults to be present for our children, to love and guide them. As a united community, we must come together around our children. They are being bombarded with negative destructive messages posted on social media platforms such as Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram and irresponsible bloggers. We must be deliberate in our actions. Listen to children, monitor their social media and speak up when you see a child posting, writing or drawing harmful behaviors especially if guns are involved. Most importantly, seek help from your child's school or the Yonkers Police Department. The time is now to get guns out of the hands of children.

Let me assure you that Yonkers schools are safe; there are no known threats to our schools. Our administrators, teachers, School Safety Officers and staff are vigilant. We appreciate the additional support of the Yonkers Police Department for constantly monitoring the schools.

As we grapple with these tragedies, we will listen and learn with all of you and do our best to support our students, staff, schools, and families. Hold your loved ones close and stay strong for our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed. M. Quezada", is written over the typed name.

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada

C: President Rev. Lopez, Vice President Del Vecchio and Members of the Board of Education

[yonkerspublicschools.org](http://yonkerspublicschools.org)