

HUNTINGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Office



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**Jennifer Mitchell
Superintendent**

**Christopher Evans
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Business Manager**

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Dear HASD Community

Like you, I am shocked and deeply saddened by the news of the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Texas on Tuesday. We share in the heartbreak we are all feeling for the families who have lost a loved one due to this senseless act of violence.

We know that everyone will process this news in different ways. I am also sure it will be highly debated on social media. Counselors are available at each of our school buildings to assist students who may need some extra support.

Schools should and must be a place where students feel completely safe and secure. We are committed to practicing safety protocols and working diligently to be safe. We certainly cannot control all factors, but we work with our local law enforcement officials to protect our buildings. Daily we have a resource officer at our main campus.

The district has most recently named a new safety coordinator for the district due to a change in staff. Mr. Matt Young is our current coordinator. He will work with myself and the administrative team to continue to develop safety protocols, attend trainings, and stay on top of safety trends.

We do have yearly training on safety and our goal is to broaden our training initiatives to make sure we include all staff who work in our schools next school year. Additionally, we do safety practice drills to try to ensure that if an emergency would arise we would be able to respond when called upon to do so. School districts are mandated by law to put in place and carry out about a dozen requirements addressing school safety, notably concerning active shooter protocols. This is not something I want to do with students, but we must find ways to do so in developmentally appropriate ways if we hope to reduce risks.

If anyone ever has any concerns about student safety, please feel free to use the anonymous Safe2Say Helpline at <https://www.safe2saypa.org/>.

Please join me in keeping the students, staff, and families of the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District in our thoughts at this time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mitchell
Huntingdon Area School District Superintendent