



Preparing every student to thrive in a global society.

April 27, 2017

Dear Families of East Side Union High School District:

We want to make you aware of a new Netflix series, *13 Reasons Why*. The series is based on the 2007 best-selling novel of the same name written by Jay Asher. Parents/guardians need to know that *13 Reasons Why* is an intense Netflix drama that is not a light watch for younger children. This series explores suicide, rape, bullying, depression, and anxiety in teens. The story behind the series involves a student who has received seven double-sided cassette tapes from a classmate who has recently committed suicide. This series may be difficult for impressionable minds to watch and process in a healthy way. In watching the series, young people and teens could interpret the message that suicide is a viable and/or romanticized option.

This show is being watched and talked about by many young people in our high schools. These very important topics have become more prevalent in our teens' lives and are regularly present on social media. This show could help parents start conversations with teens about sensitive issues such as suicide, bullying, isolation, and depression.

Below are links surrounding this show that will help provide resources for you when you sit down with your child to discuss the series. All of this information will be shared with all of our staff members as well.

<https://www.good.is/articles/13-reasons-why-teachers-parents>

<https://www.jedfoundation.org/13-reasons-why-talking-points/>

If you feel that your child needs support in this area, please reach out to the Social Worker on your child's campus. In addition, Uplift Family Services provides 24-hour crisis services by trained mental health professionals that can help a suicidal teenager. Uplift can be reached at (408) 379-9085. If your child is in crisis, call 911.

#### Other Crisis Hotlines

Bill Wilson Center SOS Crisis Hotline: (408) 278-2585

Text "LISTEN" to 741-741 for text support

24/7 Hotline for Teens: (408) 850-6125

Thank you for your time and attention. As always, we must work together to keep our children safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Funk".

Chris D. Funk  
Superintendent

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