



Kaw Valley

Unified School District #321
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Rossville Grade School
St. Marys Grade School
Rossville Jr./Sr. High School
St. Marys Jr./Sr. High School

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September 26, 2020

Dear Kaw Valley USD 321 Parents,

We strive to make safety an everyday practice in Kaw Valley Schools and believe that schools are one of the safest places for students. We have trained all staff in suicide awareness and prevention in accordance with the Jason Flatt Act.

To learn more about the characteristics of suicide, resiliency factors, what you can do, and community resources to address suicide, please visit The Jason Foundation website: <http://jasonfoundation.com>

Together, we can work to prevent suicide. Experts tell us that students who contemplate suicide give warning signs of their distress. Our community of parents, schools, and public agencies should come together to identify students who are at risk and get them the help they need. If you have concerns about your child's mental health, or the mental health of their friends, or a child in the neighborhood, please reach out to either community agencies or your school.

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) reminds us that these are some of the warning signs of suicide:

- Suicidal threats in the forms of direct and indirect statements
- Suicide notes and plans
- Prior suicidal behavior
- Making final arrangements (e.g., making funeral arrangements, writing a will, giving away prized possessions)
- Preoccupation with death
- Changes in behavior, appearance, thoughts and/or feelings

Please join Kaw Valley Schools in the fight against suicide, by working with your schools and local agencies to identify children who are at-risk. Together, we can ensure that all of our children will grow and thrive in a safe community that is forged by our partnership and our concern. Together, we can support our children and work to prevent tragedies.

Again, if you have concerns involving your student, please contact your school administrator or counselor.

Great schools, great communities, this is what Kaw Valley USD 321 stands for, making a difference for our children.

Sincerely,

Kerry S. Lacock