



Florham Park Public Schools
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January 7, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff

RE: U.S. Capitol Hill Event (01/06/21)

The event that took place on January 6, 2021 at the United States Capitol Hill was disheartening and unfortunate on many levels. As a school district, our primary duty is to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, especially during these confusing times. Many of our middle school and older elementary students have been exposed in some way to this event, via their parents, siblings, peers and/or social media. Each child is impacted differently based on their exposure, age, and various other factors. As with any traumatic event, parents please be alert to warning signs your child may exhibit; and likewise, staff, with your students. These signs may include nervousness, withdrawal, lack of interest, acting out, fear of school or other activities, or anything that deviates from the child's norm. It is critical that children feel that their home and schools are safe, supportive environments where they can discuss their feelings and concerns in an effort to make sense of the world around them.

More than ever, we believe in the power and importance of education, both at school and at home. The Florham Park School District has been, and will continue to be, a safe and nurturing environment for students to engage in age-appropriate ideological discussions within a controlled setting to provide the opportunity for students to grow academically, socially and emotionally. I am confident and appreciative that our students' needs are being addressed by proactive staff members and a supportive community. We are fortunate.

The following link to the American Psychological Association provides insight on how to speak with your child about difficult news. - [APA How To Talk To Children About Difficult News](#) (PreK-12)

Should your child ever need a staff member to speak with or if you would like further guidance on how to broach difficult conversations with your child at home, our school counselors are available to further assist.

Sincerely,

Steven Caponegro

Dr. Steven Caponegro
Superintendent of Schools

"When you can't control what is happening, challenge yourself to control the way you respond to what's happening. That is where your power is!" - Unknown