

Guidelines for Teachers **All “other” schools in Marysville**

When things like this happen, we often feel uncertain about how to talk about it with the students. Things to know:

- You don’t have to be an instant counselor
- Kids trust you, so just your presence in their lives is a support
- It is OK for your emotions to show. Who would we be if we didn’t care?
- Being stoic gives kids the message that we aren’t up to hearing their concerns
- **JUST BEING THERE FOR THEM IS THE GREATEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE!**

Discussion guide:

- Statement of observation
 - We never could have guessed that this would happen in OUR community.
- Statement of normalizing reactions:
 - When something like this happens, we all react differently. There isn’t one “normal” reaction. We all have lots of different feelings and emotions.
- Call on them to be their “best selves”
 - What we all need to do is be patient and kind toward one another while we figure out how to get through this difficult time.
- Let them tell how they first heard about it.
 - How did most of you find out what was happening?
- Normalize the confusion
 - At first information is often inaccurate, but we know that law enforcement and the hospitals are giving out the most up-to-date information they can.
- Normalize frustration:
 - Our driving need at times like this is to know why and to know how the kids in the hospital are recovering. We will never know why. The answers died with Jaylen. It is difficult for us to wait on the information from authorities, but let’s look at how to be our best selves through this...
 - We can keep the families in our hearts and know that this is much more difficult for them than it is for us.
 - We can support one another in not spreading rumors
 - What can you think of that we can do that would help?
- We want them to tell us what they need to feel safe
 - When things like this happen, adults make their best guess at what will help you feel safe, but really, we will know that best when we listen to you. What are some of the things you can think of that would help kids feel safe right now?
 -

Once you’ve done that much, the conversation will flow.... Then to wrap it up...

- It is going to take us all some time to work through this. We’ll take time to stop and talk about this, and we teachers will give you all the updates we get. We also want you to let US know when you need to talk. Tell us what will help.

