

THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Edward R. Murrow High School

DESIGNATED A SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ALLEN BARGE, PRINCIPAL. JOSEPH WILLIAMS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, PPS

Dear Families,

Our first priority is providing a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students. As parents and educators, it is important that we be aware of what our young people are watching, reading and talking about. This helps open the door for important conversations centered on topics that interest them. It also provides an opportunity for you to offer support and guidance and be aware of what information they may be getting from the media and their peers.

Many students are watching and talking about the Netflix series *13 Reasons Why*. Based on a novel by the same name, the main character leaves behind audio recordings for those individuals she feels played a role in her decision to take her life. Over the thirteen episodes, the series addresses sexual assault, bullying, suicide, and the failure of adults to respond to students' concerns.

When an incident, local or national event, or TV show is in the media and spurs conversation for our young learners, it is important that we be available to fill in the informational blanks. In doing so we can provide support and a variety of resources should they or someone they know ever face the pressures and/or impact of experiences such as those depicted in this show. As family members and educators we can and should partner to participate in these conversations in order to speak thoughtfully and sensitively with students about their views of and reactions to this fictional series.

If your child is talking about this series or you are aware that they are watching it, ask them what they are thinking about it. Remind them that you are there for them and that there are school professionals always available to answer questions, to listen and to connect them with people and places to assist them with anything that challenges them.

Below are a few links that provide information that may assist you in having a conversation about the series with your child. Also, please contact us at school to address any concerns that you may have about your child, and to assist in answering any questions they might have or resources they may need.

Please call our school counselor or social worker at 718-258-9283 if you need any assistance and as always, please call me directly at my office number 718-258-9283 Ext 1201.

Thank you so much,

Allen Barge

["Why Talk to Kids About '13 Reasons Why'" by a school psychologist \(via Child-Mind Institute\)](https://childmind.org/blog/why-talk-to-kids-about-13-reasons-why/)
<https://childmind.org/blog/why-talk-to-kids-about-13-reasons-why/>

["Netflix 13 Reasons Why: What Viewers Should Consider" \(JED\)](https://www.jedfoundation.org/13-reasons-jed-point-view/)
<https://www.jedfoundation.org/13-reasons-jed-point-view/>

[Tips for educators from the National Association of School Psychologists](http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators)
<http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators>