

October 24, 2022

Dear MRH Families, Teachers and Staff,

With great sadness, I share my most heartfelt sympathy to the students, parents, staff and community of Central Visual and Performing Arts High School in St. Louis Public Schools. Our main goal as educators is to protect our students and staff. With so much occurring societally it is difficult to even begin to digest this senseless tragedy. While we do not serve students in the city of St. Louis, we have staff who reside in the city, have family members who work in the city, and staff whose family members work in St. Louis Public Schools. This will understandably have a significant impact on them as well.

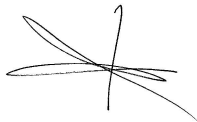
The safety of our students and staff is our main priority. Our goal is to ensure that our school communities offer a balance between the physical and emotional safety of our students and staff. We are committed to the wellbeing of our students and our teachers. At times like this, we must be a community of care and take care of one another, remind students that we love them and continue to provide a consistent, stable and caring environment. It is critical that we keep routines and schedules as normal as possible for our students during this time.

Our school counselors and social workers are also available to help your child process these events. If your child would like to speak with someone about any feelings or concerns they have, please reach out to us or encourage them to speak to a teacher or adult at school. I know these conversations can be difficult at home as well. Here are some [resources that you can use to help your child](#) process these feelings.

It takes all of us to ensure our schools are safe. We have very strong partnerships with our local police and first responders in Maplewood and Richmond Heights and work closely with them daily. Your partnership is so vital. If you see or hear something that may create a school safety concern, report it immediately to a school official or school resource officer (SRO). We will continue to work together to ensure our schools are safe and caring communities.

Thank you for your support and for trusting us with your children. Please feel free to contact me at bonita.jamison@mrhschools.net with any questions, concerns or requests for support.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bonita E. Jamison', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Bonita E. Jamison, Superintendent
Maplewood Richmond Heights School District