



New Horizons Charter Academy
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Dear New Horizons Charter Academy Community,

We are aware of messages that are circulating on social media and news outlets regarding possible non-specific threats in communities across the nation and worldwide. The safety and well-being of our students and employees remain our top priority and we are here for those impacted by current events in Israel. The violence and loss of life that have occurred in Israel and Gaza over the past week and tragically will likely continue in the weeks ahead are horrifying. I mourn for the innocent lives lost and feel deep sadness for their families and loved ones. I especially feel for those in our New Horizons Charter Academy community affected by these events and want to reiterate my support for you and your well-being during this challenging time.

This happened against a domestic backdrop in the U.S. of rising hate including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in recent years. As an intentionally diverse school, we stand with our community and are committed to fighting bias and hate in our world. New Horizons Charter Academy focuses on teaching our students how to be in community and how to resolve conflicts peacefully. We work with students from the youngest ages to help them understand and be proud of their identity, to be aware of and celebrate diversity, to recognize unfairness/injustice and to take action when they encounter it. We're committed to instilling in our students a dedication to improving the world including being agents of positive change to combat hate and injustice. We stand against hate, persecution, terror, violence and injustice wherever they occur.

I'm sharing here the resources about social media access at this time.

<https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience/kids-war>

<https://www.apa.org/topics/schools-classrooms/middle-school-resilience>

<https://www.common Sense Media.org/articles/explaining-the-news-to-our-kids>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2023/10/10/violence-social-media-israel-war/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/psychology-adolescence/202204/how-talk-your-kids-about-social-media>

Resilience in a time of war: Tips for parents and teachers of elementary school children

Resilience in a time of war: Tips for parents and teachers of middle school children

Explaining the News to Our Kids | Common Sense Media

How to Talk to Kids About Violence, Crime, and War | Common Sense Media

How to limit graphic social media images from the Israel-Hamas war - The Washington Post

How to Talk with Your Kids About Social Media | Psychology Today

In addition to the non-specific threats in communities around the world, there are also numerous warnings circulating regarding graphic violent content on social media platforms in the next few days, specifically today, Friday, October 13th. We strongly encourage you to consider monitoring these channels, putting up additional parental controls, and/or assisting students in exercising extreme discretion around social media for the time being.

We want to assure you that we are closely monitoring the situation and continue to work with our civic and law enforcement partners. We will take appropriate and immediate action to respond to any and all threats to our learning communities. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of our school leaders or counselors/social workers/school psychologists if you have questions or if your student needs support.

Thank you,

Richard Thomas

Executive Director