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Dear Cherry Hill Community,

Our community has been rocked by the terror attacks carried out by Hamas on Saturday. We stand united with our government in unequivocally condemning the attacks and are devastated by the resulting loss of innocent lives.

These attacks, and the situation that has been unfolding since Saturday, have impacted many in our school community. While some of us have loved ones or friends who have been directly affected, others without those connections have also been impacted. Many students and their families are experiencing powerful feelings such as fear, sadness, anger, hurt and powerlessness.

Today, a video of a heated exchange between students at Cherry Hill High School East was widely released, causing further concern in our community. This short video represented a brief moment in time that was addressed immediately by school staff and administration.

Our schools are, and *always* must be, a safe place for all students and all staff. Our staff and administration are working diligently to help students navigate through these times, and to ensure physical and emotional safety in our schools. In addition to the internal supports and resources already being employed in our schools, we are also working with community partners in the Jewish and Muslim communities to assist our students and staff in respectful engagement. Acts of violence, discrimination or mistreatment in our schools are not, and will not, be tolerated. Students who hear or see something upsetting should report it immediately to a trusted adult.

Outside of school hours, mental health resources are available online. [Care Solace](#) is a 24/7/365 concierge mental support in any language. Additional support is available through the [Mental Health Resources page](#) of the District website.

Cherry Hill is a community that must work together to support our children, as they face challenges of experiencing a situation in the Middle East that is incredibly complicated and difficult for adults to grapple with. We ask our families to help support our staff and administrations as they continue to provide a safe environment where all of our students can learn.

Dr. Kwame R. Morton, Sr.
Acting Superintendent

Ms. Miriam Stern
Board of Education President