

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Netflix recently released a series entitled "13 Reasons Why." The show is based on the book with the same title and is a fictional account of a teenage character who commits suicide after a series of serious and unfortunate events. The show is a graphic dramatization of the main character's account of reasons why she chose to commit suicide.

As a school, we want to inform you about the series and let you know that many students are discussing this material.

While we support and encourage open communication with your children about such a sensitive subject, this particular book and TV series is written for a mature audience. The TV rating for the Netflix show is TVMA, and the book is listed as "mature teen." Besides depicting the suicide itself in a graphic nature, there is frequent use of profanity, alcohol and sexually explicit material in both the book and TV series.

We encourage you to speak to your children and let them know that there are adults who can help them through difficult times. This can be an opportunity for you to discuss with them and identify those they can turn to for support.

Links to resources for guidance and talking points are provided from the National Association of School Psychologists and the JED Foundation below to aid in conversation.

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators>

<https://www.jedfoundation.org/13-reasons-why-talking-points/>

Additionally, here is a link for more information on the series content: <https://www.common sense media.org/tv-reviews/13-reasons-why>

As a parent, you are able to best communicate with your child about the serious nature of this content and any questions, feelings, or concerns that may arise from it.

Please contact your child's grade level counselor if you would like any additional information.