



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta
Superintendent of Schools

May 21, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter is to make you aware that the popular Netflix series, *13 Reasons Why*, launched its second season on Friday, May 18, 2018. You may recall receiving a letter from me last April advising our parents that this miniseries addresses mature themes, including sexual assault, suicide, alcohol and substance abuse, bullying and extreme violence. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), advises that this "intense, graphic portrayal of difficult issues involving youth present both the risk of triggering harmful behaviors among some vulnerable youth and the opportunity for adults to engage in meaningful and supportive discussions with youth about these issues." *It is strongly recommended by NASP that vulnerable children and youth (such as those suffering from depression, previous suicidal behavior, or trauma) not watch this series, and most certainly, not watch it alone.*

Please take a moment to find out if your child has viewed the series. If so, please use the show as an opportunity to talk about some of its complicated issues and open the door to create a safe atmosphere for your child to discuss his or her feelings and emotions. We've included a list of resources below to help with the conversation and identify warning signs.

We also urge parents to research the series to fully understand what your child is being exposed to and the potential impact.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter, and for partnering with us to support the social-emotional health and well-being of students. Should you feel the need for more information or support, please contact your child's school counselor, school psychologist, social worker or principal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marco F. Pochintesta".

13 Reasons Why Toolkit: <https://www.13reasonswhytoolkit.org/>

13 Reasons Why Alert:

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a0415f_5fe0939a4d1b4192a23702f8d3a4a53f.pdf

Resources from National Assoc. of School Psychologists: <http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series>

PRHS Webpage: Keeping Teenagers Safe:

http://prhs.pearlriver.org/groups/55622/prhs_guidance/keeping_teenagers_safe