



# Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

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**Mark Secaur, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools  
(631) 382-2006

October 10, 2023

Dear Smithtown School Community,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. The coordinated terrorist attacks against Israel that took place over the weekend have impacted us all, and we are deeply concerned about the effect this violence may have on our students. It is important for the world to bear witness and condemn these events, but many of the images that have been shared via the news and social media have been deeply unsettling. There have also been reports that TikTok and Instagram will soon be flooded with even more gruesome photos and videos. With this in mind, you may want to consider closely monitoring your children's social media usage.

Please know that we are ready to help, and our outstanding team of school psychologists, social workers, counselors, teachers and administrators stand ready to assist you and your children during this crisis. Should you want to discuss these events with your children, the National Child Stress Network created a valuable resource that can be found [HERE](#).

Sadly, this war will likely see many dark days ahead, but please know we are here to support you in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.