



BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mark Saalfield, *Superintendent*

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

While we realize that this may be an issue for older children, we wanted to alert you about a trending Netflix series called *13 Reasons Why*. The reason we are bringing this to your attention is because we are concerned that many parents may not even be aware that their child is viewing this deeply emotional series, which is rated for mature audiences.

The story revolves around 17-year-old Hanna Baker, who takes her own life and leaves behind 13 cassette tape recordings for the 13 people she says contributed to her decision to commit suicide. The 13 episodes show in graphic detail: teen suicide, rape, underage drinking, drug use and drunk driving. It leaves little to the imagination, demonstrating "how to correctly slit one's wrists".

The decision as to what is viewed on TV or on the Internet, in your home, is your decision. However, if you need assistance with this program there are several resources available specifically to support families with *13 Reasons Why*.

- **Letter from NJ Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council**
<https://homerom5.doe.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2017/APR/25/16330/Letter%20from%20NJ%20Youth%20Suicide%20Prevention%20Advisory%20Council.pdf>
- **National Association of School Psychologists Provides Guidance on Netflix Fictional Series on Youth Suicide**
 - Series Titled 13 Reasons Why
<http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators>

Please know and share with your child that our staff is prepared to assist and help at any time he/she may be facing challenging circumstances. Please contact us directly or encourage your child to speak with our School Counselor or School Psychologist at any time if you feel it necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Bruce P. Leal

Principal

File attachments:

[13RW-Talking-Points-JED-SAVE-Netflix.pdf](#)

[nasp_13reasonswhyguidance.pdf](#)

[TipsForParents_2017.pdf](#)