

Dear Principal and administrators,

We write to you today as Israeli American parents watching in horror as our homeland is massacred. Early on the morning of October 7th in Israel, Hamas began its assault on Israel via land, sea, and air, including over 3,000 rockets fired at civilian targets. As we watch horrific scenes play out on the news, we are heartbroken and terrified.

New York City is home to so many Israeli Americans, many of whom have children in our school districts. Although each child, depending on his or her age, may not be fully aware of the atrocities in Israel at this moment, too many are sadly all too aware.

While it should be up to parents how much information they share with their children, we know that many will inevitably be discussing this in their homes. As a result, these horrors will be weighing on our community members heavily for the foreseeable future. Trauma-Informed care should be made available to any students that need such attention.

We reach out not only to provide information and offer education on the current war, but also to request support. Whether it be school counselors, teachers, or administrators, we ask that the adults in New York schools be made aware of what is currently happening in Israel. We are counting on the support of the faculty and staff to guide our children as they process the macabre reality of war and mourn lost loved ones.

Finally, given the intense emotional nature of this issue and its potential to be inflammatory, we urge you to be prepared for retaliations. During past conflicts in Israel, Jewish and Israeli students have been targeted for bullying and hate. We encourage you to have your staff keep an eye out for any potentially discriminatory or violent situations. Please maintain vigilance in ensuring all students have a safe environment to learn, regardless of religion or national origin.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with additional questions regarding this assault on Israel, or about additional ways you can provide emotional support for our families during this difficult time.

With gratitude,

Dana Agmon