

Hello Everyone!

I am writing a day early because tomorrow I will be driving to Long Island for my aunt's Golden Jubilee. She has been a Dominican nun for 50 years! That is faith and dedication. So, I wanted to get out my email to everyone!

At the bottom there are some serious concerns I need parents to really read through and if there are any questions, please contact me.

NYS Math Testing: The New York State Math tests are next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you are opting your child out, and only sent in a letter for ELA, please send in another letter for Math (and Science for grades 4 +8 if you want) before the test. Make sure your child gets a good nights sleep and has a good breakfast.

UNIFORMS: Some people are already thinking about uniforms for next year. Attached is the Flynn and O'Hara flyer and link if you wish to get a head start! [uniform.pdf](#)

Your school landing page link is: www.flynnohara.com/school/ny027

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE - Saturday, April 29, 2017: St. Andrew's Catholic Youth Organization sponsors a Middle School Dance at 1545 Sheridan Drive, Kenmore, at St. Andrew's Country Day School. Enter Donovan Center Door # 4 off Lowell Road. Admission is \$5.00 includes free beverage! **Arrival Time: 7:30 p.m. Departure Time:** 9:30 p.m. Dress up or dress down, but dress appropriately.

IMPORTANT PARENT MESSAGES: These messages are stemming from actual incidents in our area:

1. Parents, please remind your child about proper bus behavior. If a child misbehaves on a school bus, the behavior will be reported to the public district and they may lose bus privileges. This includes field trips. If any damage is done, the child and family will be responsible.
2. St. Andrew's Country Day School takes terroristic threats and violent threats seriously. Any student who threatens violence against another student, a teacher, the school or any individual associated with the school will be referred to local authorities. This type of threat can include, but is not limited to, verbal threats, written threats, visualized/drawn threats, and threats posted on social media or the internet. The student will be immediately suspended by the principal, and an evaluation of the student will be mandated. The possibility of the student's readmittance to school will be predicated upon a number of things, to include, but not limited to: a mental or psychological evaluation by a professional, an evaluation by the district Committee on Special Evaluation and possible prescription of an Individual Education Plan. The administrator also reserves the right to transfer the student out of the school.
3. PARENT WARNING - Over the last few weeks there has been a lot of attention to a netflix series called "13 Reasons Why," based upon a book about a young woman who commits suicide and names 13 reasons (people) that caused her to go through with it, what they did to her, or what they didnt do to help her. The last couple of episodes have been graphic is the depiction of her sexual assault. Please see the notice below from our Youth director for the Diocese and some helpful websites. Your child may not have access to netflix - however, you dont need it to see the episodes. Just because we think we know what our children are doing, doesnt mean we shouldnt check. Children are naturally inquisitive - a trait that should be nurtured and appreciated, but sometimes it can also get them into unforeseen circumstances. Please take a look:

As you may be aware, over the past few weeks, a new Netflix series has gone viral, especially among high school young people. Titled “**13 Reasons Why**,” it’s based on a 2007 novel by Jay Asher. It’s the story of a 16 year old girl, Hannah Baker, who commits suicide after being bullied, abused online, and sexually assaulted/raped. Hannah leaves behind 13 audio tapes, each addressed to a different person who she claims played a role in her decision to take her life, either by things they did to her, or by things they could have done to help, but didn’t.

The series is appealing to teens. It’s a raw, realistic picture of certain aspects of teens’ experience, and that’s validating for lots of teens. As you know, this generation of teenagers values transparency and “being real” and they do not shy away from real issues. It accurately depicts the pressures teens face in high school (tension between wanting to stand out, and wanting to fit in), and it highlights the extreme pressure that’s put on teens (especially girls) to reach and maintain physical perfection. It also helps that it’s well done in terms of film quality, and it’s “good drama” (e.g. cliff-hanger after every episode). It’s important for you to know that it’s extremely graphic in its portrayal of the incidents that happen, including the rape and Hannah’s suicide.

It was released by Netflix on March 31, 2017 – and millions of teens have watched it. Especially with time off from school at Easter, you can be sure that many teens were binge-watching all 13 episodes of the series over break.

As you can imagine, there are MANY concerns about this series. I won’t outline them all here in this email – it would be WAY too long. Plus, the resources below will do a better job than I will at analyzing the series and outlining the concerns. **Please make use of them! And please share this email with all those in your parish or school who need to be aware!**

My suggestions: Don’t ignore it. Use it as an entry point for discussion; a way to talk about issues that are really important to them. Familiarize yourself with it (see resources below), and engage with our teens in meaningful ways. I especially urge you to share this information and the resources below with parents, who will be asking themselves (and maybe us!) what they should do about it.

Some Resources:

13 Reasons Why: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly – YouTube video by Roy Petitfils

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngD3PtPt3ac>

In this video Roy Petitfils, LPC a licensed counselor specializing in working with adolescents discusses 1) Why 13Reasons is so appealing to teens 2) Concerns about the content 3) How adults can use this as an opportunity to create meaningful dialogue about the serious issues presented in the show. (Kathy’s note: this video is about 45 min long, but if you really want EXCELLENT and COMPREHENSIVE analysis, and GREAT suggestions about how to talk about it with teens, it’s worth it!! Roy is also planning to record and upload a video to YouTube designed FOR TEENS about 13Reasons Why. It’s not up yet, but watch for it.)

Before You Watch “13 Reasons Why” – blog by Leah Murphy from LifeTeen

<http://lifeteen.com/blog/watch-13-reasons/>

Good, short, written analysis of key concerns.

JED Foundation

13 Reasons Why: Tips for Viewing and Discussing New Netflix Series: <https://www.jedfoundation.org/13-reasons-why-talking-points/>

Netflix 13 Reasons Why: What Viewers Should Consider: <https://www.jedfoundation.org/13-reasons-jed-point-view/>

Please remind your children ways to stay safe, and always watch what they are doing. You are not spying - you are being a parent.

Peace,

Mrs. P