



Manhasset Public Schools

Excellence through Effort

Dr. Dean J. Schlanger
Principal
Manhasset Secondary School

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

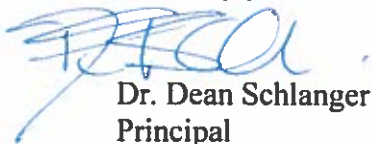
As you may or may not be aware, a Netflix series entitled *13 Reasons Why* has recently attracted the attention of many middle and high school students. Due to the nature and content of the show, we wanted to bring the series to your attention.

13 Reasons Why, based on a book of the same title, is the story of 17 year old Hannah Baker who takes her own life. Before doing so, she records 13 cassette tapes addressed to the 13 individuals who, she claims, were responsible for her decision to take her life. Each of the tapes highlights issues she experienced, including bullying, starting and spreading rumors, the misuse of social media to share compromising photos, and sexual assault, among many other events. In addition, the adults in her life are depicted as missing or ignoring the warning signs of the young woman's eventual suicide.

The series has been criticized for glamorizing suicide and for not addressing important mental health issues. As such, we believe it is important for you to determine if your child has viewed the series and that you consider the need to open a dialogue about the impact of viewing the series. For your review, we have attached an article written by Dr. John Ackerman, Ph.D., clinical psychologist in Behavioral and Suicide Prevention Coordinator for Suicide Prevention and Research at Nationwide Children's Hospital, and a link to a document prepared by the National Association of School Psychologists.

As always, please know that our entire staff is committed to working with and being responsive to the needs of our students and their families. Should you have any cause for concern, please do not hesitate to reach out to us for support

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Dean Schlanger
Principal



Alison Rushforth
Executive Director of Special
Education Programs and Services



Jane Grappone
Director of School
Counseling Services

<https://www.jedfoundation.org/13-reasons-jed-point-view/>