



October 11, 2023

Dear RPS Community,

I am writing today as a follow up to yesterday's message regarding the tragic situation in Israel last weekend. By the time our message reached the RPS community, the Israeli Defense Force had begun an attack on Gaza, resulting in great suffering and loss of life among innocent Palestinians as well. Unfortunately, there may be much more suffering to come.

Over the course of yesterday and this morning, I received a variety of messages from parents and community members with concerns that the original message was not inclusive of the suffering of the Palestinian people. These messages were written by various individuals, some identifying as muslim, some identifying as jewish, and some whose ethnic identity was not disclosed. These messages were concise and respectful, and I am grateful for all of them. Please continue to share your feedback with me regarding future topics of concern.

As this conflict has continued to unfold and escalate, our hearts go out to all individuals that have and will be affected by violence. Ridgewood Public Schools is home to students and staff with cultural and family ties to both the Israeli and Palestinian people, and we know that students and adults are experiencing a wide range of emotions.

Please know that Ridgewood Public Schools remains steadfast in its commitment to support all of our students and staff. Our [Parent Resources page on the RPS website](#) will continue to be updated with social and emotional learning resources to support our families with any conversations they choose to have with their students.

We want to assure the community that our staff is prepared to speak with and provide assistance to students as needed.



RIDGEWOOD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Regards,
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