

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
Ogontz and Olney Avenues
Philadelphia, PA 19141

Telephone: (215) 400-3590

November 18, 2021

Dear CHS Community,

Last evening, I was informed that an assault towards multiple Central High School students occurred on the Broad Street Line. The video that is circulating on social media shows horrific violence being inflicted and I, as well as many others, am appalled by what I saw. I have been working with the School District of Philadelphia's Office of School Safety, SEPTA Police and the Philadelphia Police Department to assist with identifying the individuals responsible for this unacceptable act. Currently, 3 of the 4 have been identified. I have been assured that appropriate action will be taken in regards to the assaults witnessed on the video.

During advisory this morning, I streamed into homeroom classes to meet with our faculty, staff and students to share what details I had regarding this incident as well as to offer support to any student who feels any anxiety or concern over their safety. I shared that resources are in place today to support all students struggling with the attack. We have our counseling team and extra support personnel from the District as we process the violence that occurred yesterday. I reiterated that Central is here for *all* members of our school community. We have worked to create a safe, nurturing school environment so that our students and faculty feel comfortable sharing and supporting each other. I am hopeful that the work we are doing to develop a positive learning environment will permeate into the landscape of our city so that peace will return to our streets. I am pleased to report that all of our students are recovering.

After our advisory period, I met with a group of parents and community advocates to discuss, debrief, and start the process of developing a plan of support for our students as they travel to and from school. We discussed multiple topics with a focus on approaching elected and law enforcement leaders to create safe corridors for our students. SEPTA has committed to assigning a SEPTA Police Officer to escort a Broad Street Line train at 3:25 pm from the Olney Station so that our students can travel safely to South Philadelphia. Students are to use their SEPTA Cards and meet the officer on the train platform. The officer will move from car to car during the train ride so that our students will be monitored and feel safe. This will be an ongoing change to support our school community.

I will continue to advocate for our school community. I ask that you do the same. We need to pressure our political and law enforcement leaders to develop plans that keep all members of our city safe.

When more information becomes available I will communicate it with our school community. If you have questions, please reach out to a member of the Central High School Administrative Team.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. McKenna
President of Central High School