

WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

In 2017, I wrote to you about the Netflix series, 13 Reasons Why because of its popularity among many middle school and high school students. Season one of the series garnered considerable attention and controversy for what some saw as its treatment of teenage suicide as a potentially viable option. A number of critics were concerned about the show's graphic depictions of rape, drug use, and suicide.

Given the level of concern that developed about the 13 Reasons Why Netflix series, a number of professional organizations offered information and advice to parents. Most prominent among them is the National Association of School Psychologists that said, "Its powerful storytelling may lead impressionable viewers to romanticize the choices by the character and/or to develop revenge fantasies." **More detailed information can be found on their website.**

Last week, Netflix released season two of 13 Reasons Why. Season two follows many of the same characters and "...appears to fit in as much melodrama and unrelenting darkness as its predecessor (Washington Post, May 9, 2018)." A message that precedes the series includes the warning "...this series may not be right for you, or you may want to watch it with a trusted adult." **Attached is information from the National Association of School Psychologists about the second season.**

It is important for us as parents to know what media our young people are consuming, as the same content may have very different impacts on each individual. I encourage you to closely monitor your child's media consumption and specifically consider whether it is in your child's best interest to watch season two of 13 Reasons Why.

As always, our school mental health professionals are available to talk with students and parents.

Sincerely,



Raymond A. Castellani
Superintendent of Schools
Webutuck Central School District

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