



Ichabod Crane Central School District

2910 Route 9, P.O. BOX 820, Valatie, New York 12184
(518) 758-7575
<http://www.ichabodcrane.org>

May 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to inform you about a new Netflix original series called *13 Reasons Why*. It follows a high school student who receives 13 tapes made by a classmate before she killed herself. The tapes explain the 13 reasons why she took her own life. The themes and images are graphic and intense, tackling not only suicide, but also sexual assault and underage drinking.

The fictional series is based on a young adult novel but not intended for audiences under 17. It has caused concerns about the graphic way it portrays suicide and sexual assault, and how this content could impact the emotional well-being of those watching it.

We urge parents to be aware of this series to fully understand the mature content your child may be exposed to. Many students may be watching this on-demand series now, particularly in light of its increased national media exposure in recent weeks. We do not recommend that vulnerable youth, especially those who have any degree of suicidal ideation, watch this series. Its powerful storytelling may lead impressionable viewers to romanticize the choices made by the characters and/or develop revenge fantasies. This is why it is important for students to have an opportunity to speak with you, a school counselor, mental health professional or a responsible adult about the questions and feelings this show may cause.

Suicide is something that impacts many communities, but it is never a solution. It is an irreversible choice regarding a temporary problem. If you feel that your child needs support, or if you have any questions, please contact your child's principal or counselor at the numbers listed below. If you or someone you know is struggling with the thoughts of suicide, you can get immediate help by calling 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or text "start" to 741741. For further information from the National Association of School Psychologists, go to <http://tinyurl.com/n8dxgy2>.

The safety and well-being of our students continues to be our first priority.

Sincerely,

George Zini
Superintendent

GZ/amb

District Number – 758-7575

Main Office

High School - ext 4002
Middle School - ext 5002
Primary School - ext 6002

Guidance Office

ext. 4008
ext. 5006
ext. 6003