

Dear School Administrators/Principals:

This letter is being sent to you to inform you that Netflix has produced and created a television series based on Jay Asher's 2007 book entitled "Thirteen Reasons Why." The series is scheduled to be released in full to the public at 12:01 AM on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. The topics covered in this book and series are: adolescent bullying, rejection, heartbreak, sexual assault, abuse, revenge, depression, desperate but

Dear Parent:

This letter is being sent to you to inform you that it has come to our attention that Netflix has produced and created a television series based on Jay Asher's 2007 book entitled "Thirteen Reasons Why." The series is scheduled to be released in full to the public at 12:01 AM on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. The topics covered in this book and series are: adolescent bullying, rejection, heartbreak, sexual assault, abuse, revenge, depression, desperate but unsuccessful efforts to find help or understanding, and suicide. The book provided 13 reasons related to interactions with peers, family and school personnel justifying the teenaged lead character's ultimate decision to end her life. It is unknown how the television series will ultimately address these issues over its 13 hours, but we do know the series ends with the main character dying by suicide. Such series can be very difficult to watch and could easily trigger feelings of distress in vulnerable viewers.

We are notifying you of this event to enable you to make informed decisions regarding viewing this series. In the event your child chooses to view this series, you may wish to discuss some of the issues raised. To facilitate discussion of these issues with your child, we are enclosing an outline of suggestions that may help with such a dialogue. Please note that this letter is not recommending viewing this series; it is intended only to provide you with information we feel is relevant to the health and wellbeing of our students. The enclosed outline is offered for your consideration if you should choose to view this series as a family. It should also be noted that Netflix opens all 13 episodes for continuous viewing so parents should consider metered viewing of the series to allow time to process and discuss themes and feelings that may arise.

