

Kindra L. Hovis  
Principal

Larry Sherfick  
Guidance/Counseling

Debbie Howell  
Admin. Asst./Treasurer



John Kirtland II  
Athletic Director

Myrna Greene  
Psychology/Discipline

Amy Holt  
Guidance/Attendance Admin. Asst.

April 27, 2017

Parents of Shoals Students:

Important information about a Netflix Series titled *13 Reasons Why*:

Netflix Series, *13 Reasons Why*, debuted on March 31, 2017 and is trending nationally. It is a 13 hour series depicting strong and graphic themes of suicide, bullying, sexual assault, drug use, and other social issues. While the show has become very popular, it is also generating a tremendous amount of controversy and concern among mental health experts. Dan Reidenberg, Executive Director of SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education), says, "The show does not address mental illness or present viable alternatives to suicide."

As a school, we would like to offer some tips:

- If your teenager is watching it, take the time to have conversations about the content, possibly watching together.
- Experts feel that the series may be romanticizing suicide and not encouraging teenagers to seek help from family or counselors.
- Please consider reading these Talking Points:

<https://www.jedfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/13RW-Talking-Points-JED-SAVE-Netflix.pdf>

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-TALK or text 741741. Suicide is NEVER the answer, getting help is the answer. Prevention, Awareness, and support is available at Suicide.org or National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-8225.

**What can you do if you are concerned about a student?** Teachers and other school staff are well-positioned to observe student behavior and to refer students for additional assistance if there is a suspicion that a student may consider self-harm. Young people lack the perspective of time. Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem, but for kids, their problems can seem endless at this stage. If we get them through a crisis, they are very unlikely to attempt suicide.

Sincerely,

Shoals Jr./Sr. High School Staff

812-247-2090