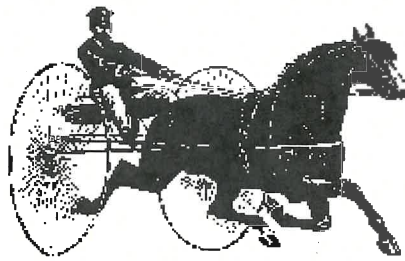


Daniel T. Connor
Superintendent of Schools
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Cradle of the Trotter
and
Birthplace of Webster's
Dictionary

GOSHEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
227 MAIN STREET
GOSHEN, NEW YORK 10924

May 2, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardians,

This letter is to make you aware of the popular Netflix series, *13 Reasons Why*. This series is about a high school student, Hannah Baker, who leaves 13 tape recordings behind detailing why she took her own life. It concerns us that young people and teenagers could interpret the message that suicide is a viable or romanticized option. Please note that the show's content is extremely graphic, with disturbing scenes in each episode, which may be difficult to cope with, understand, or process in a healthy manner.

We believe the series includes the following shortcomings:

- There is no mention of behavioral health or treatment options;
- The notion of suicide is glamorized;
- There are several scenes depicting serious trauma, rape, bullying, alcoholism and suicide;
- The graphic portrayal of Hannah's actual suicide was unnecessary and potentially harmful to young people facing challenges.

In closing, we encourage you to talk to your son or daughter about whether they have watched the show. If you child does watch the show, please plan on watching with them to discuss the topics presented. The website <https://www.jedfoundation.org/13-reasons-why-talking-points/> includes talking points to aid in assisting you as you speak to your child about the series at home. Another valuable resource is located on the National Association of School Psychologists' website <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators>.

As always, we have guidance counselors, school psychologists, social workers and all administrators here to inform, assist and support you and your child.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Connor
Superintendent of Schools