

Monday, August 8, 2022

Dear APS Community,

Within the last few days, we learned that four Muslim men in our city lost their lives to intolerance and hate. Though the crimes aren't directly related to Albuquerque Public Schools, we want our Muslim employees and students to know we stand in solidarity with them and will do everything possible to provide resources and support as needed.

Our campuses include teams of people who want all children to feel safe and thrive. If – as an APS employee, student, or family member – you feel anxious, frightened, or vulnerable, we encourage you to talk with one of our professionals. The APS Employee Assistance Program is available to APS employees. Students and their families can reach out to their school counselor for support during this critical and confusing time.

Arrests in cases like this happen because someone knows something and says something. Please visit APD at www.crimestoppersnm.com to learn more about the vehicle being sought in connection with these crimes.

This is not the first letter I imagined sending to the community at the start of the new school year, but everything that happens in our city affects our schools, and it would be irresponsible to ignore the circumstances.

Our students come from all over the world. It is especially heartbreaking to acknowledge the victims we are writing about today came to America to avoid persecution and violence.

On behalf of the entire school district, we extend our sincerest condolences to the victims of these heinous crimes. We are never powerless, which is why APS promises to remain a place where everyone is welcome, included, and valued.

Sincerely,

Scott Elder
APS Superintendent