



**Kevin Polston**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Office of Superintendent**

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**Kentwood Public Schools**  
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This communication serves as an update to the district's response to the incident last evening at the Crossroads Alternative High School graduation. KPS has worked closely with the Kent County Sheriff's Office regarding the ongoing investigation and the release of the crime scene on the East Kentwood campus this morning. While schools adjacent to the crime scene were closed today, the remaining KPS schools remained open.

The following information is related to school events and the return to school for all students on Monday, May 23rd. Our focus continues to be on the health and safety of our staff, students and the community. Additional crisis team members will be available to students upon return to school on Monday for the schools that were closed. Any student that needs additional support can be referred to their school principal or call 616.455.4400

In collaboration with the Kent County Sheriff's Office, KPS will run all activities as scheduled with additional precautionary safety measures including, but not limited to, increased police and school safety personnel presence for the remainder of the school year. There is no active threat involving our schools and it is believed the incident at the Crossroads graduation is isolated.

When violence occurs in the community it is troubling and tragic. Students may experience anxiety following incidents such as this. KPS has professional services available to provide support and counseling to any students that need assistance. Please be aware of any students who may need professional services and refer them to your school principal. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families.

We would ask if you, or any family members or friends, witnessed the events and have not spoken to the police, if you have photographs or videos of the incident, or if anyone has information related to this event, to contact the Kent County Sheriff's Office at 616.632.6100. You may also contact the Silent Observer hotline or email at: 616.774.2345 or [silentobserver.org](http://silentobserver.org). Please encourage any students or parents that may have information about these events to also contact the Sheriff's Office.

We are thankful for the support of our community and first responders. The strength of the Kentwood community is our ability to rally in support of each other during times of need. We will get through this together. We will continue to communicate with our school community as important information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Kevin Polston