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October 12, 2023

Dear GJUESD Families,

*I am sharing this information that has been provided to school districts in California from California County Superintendents.* 

The terrorist attack instigated by Hamas against Israel and resulting declaration of war by Israel against Hamas in the Gaza Strip has led to numerous horrific casualties and injuries on both sides. Our thoughts are with all of those affected by the conflict which is so difficult to comprehend, understand, and justify. California is home to students and staff with cultural ties to Israel and Palestine. In these challenging times, it is crucial for educators and families to have access to appropriate resources to engage in meaningful discussions with students about the events in Israel and Gaza.

As is the case with other violence around the world, it is likely that our students have access to unprecedented levels of information and potentially misinformation. In addition, graphic images and footage of violent conflicts are not easy to process, especially for children and youth. It's even more difficult for those who have experienced trauma or witnessed violence themselves.

Parents, caregivers, and educators are faced with the challenge of explaining violence and war to children. Although difficult, these conversations are extremely important and in the context of human history help us work towards peace.

Below are resources to help children feel more secure and understand the world in which they live. These resources are intended to provide access to information and educators are encouraged to determine which ones are most appropriate for their students.

Facing History & Ourselves Resources Link to Marin COE Resources Link to San Diego COE Resources Link to Los Angeles COE Resources

Please take care,

Superintendent

## MISSION STATEMENT

The school district's mission is to promote growth and achievement through innovative educational programs that integrate personal strengths, social-emotional and academic learning for all children.