Dearest Parents and Staff,

Words cannot express the profound sadness and shock that grips our hearts in the wake of the tragedy that unfolded at Perry Secondary School in Perry, Iowa. This senseless act of violence leaves a void in the lives of precious children and families. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Perry Community during this loss. Our deepest sympathies lie with the families directly affected.

As superintendent, I feel the weight of every L-M student entrusted to our care. My child attends Louisa-Muscatine Schools, and the thought of yours and mine experiencing such horror is painful. In the face of such darkness, however, we must remember the light that shines within us - the care, resilience, and commitment to the safety and well-being of our students. While no measure can fully shield against the unthinkable, our district prioritizes school safety.

We have active protocols in place, including but not limited to:

- Regular emergency drills and training: Students and staff practice lockdown procedures, active shooter response, and evacuation routes.
- Secure building access: All exterior doors are locked during school hours, and visitors must be buzzed in.
- Mental health resources: Counselors and social workers are readily available to support students and staff struggling with emotional distress.
- Collaborative relationships: We maintain close partnerships with local law enforcement and emergency responders for rapid response and coordination.
- School Resource Officer: We have a full-time campus School Resource Officer (SRO) deputy sheriff in Louisa County.

These measures are reviewed and updated to create a safe and nurturing environment for learning. In the wake of this tragedy, we will redouble our efforts, exploring additional measures.

As parents, we naturally worry about our children's safety. Please contact the school with any questions or concerns. We are here to listen, support, and offer resources.

With Commitment,

Mike Van Sickle, Louisa-Muscatine Superintendent of Schools