



May 25, 2022

Dear Parents of Texans Can Academies,

Today, our country woke up with a sense of collective sadness, grief, anger, and fear over the horrific evil we witnessed in Uvalde. And, today, more than twenty families are experiencing what will surely be the worst days of their lives. Their wounds may never heal.

Especially as a parent, I feel the most profound grief for the parents and family members who, today, are missing someone who, only yesterday morning, they thought they would embrace yesterday afternoon.

I know you share these same feelings.

While we together process this horror, and while we as a nation discuss what we can do to prevent more families from experiencing it, I want to speak, as a moment, as the Superintendent of schools where your child attends.

My role at Texans Can Academies is one of my greatest responsibilities and greatest joys. I am grateful every day that you trust your child's safety and education to me and to the staff at our schools.

I am writing, then, to say that I deeply appreciate and honor the trust you have placed in Texans Can, and I am also writing to assure you that the staff we employ on our campuses are prepared to do one thing: keep your child safe.

Your child's future means the world to me, and it means the world to our staff.

I know it does to you.

I want to assure you that Texans Can Academies will remain vigilant and continue to employ **excellent security staff** to ensure the hallways where your child learns remain a place of learning.

I also want to inform you that, right now, responsive **mental health professionals** are on each of our campuses to provide care and connect students to excellent resources.

And, more than that, our **staff utilize communication strategies** that work by building trust so that the challenges our students face, academically or socially or emotionally, can be addressed in the context of care.

Texans Can is committed to these resources and practices. It is my pledge to you that Texans Can Academies, even above your child's education, will place your child's safety, health, and happiness first.

We want nothing more than your child's full and happy future. We thank you for trusting us with it.

Our deepest wishes for the comfort and healing of Uvalde.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ponce".

James J. Ponce, Ed. D
Superintendent

Texans Can Academies
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