



April 27, 2017

Dear Parents,

Below is a letter I received from a parent from Far Hills Country Day School and feel it is important enough to pass it along to you. I have not seen the show “13 Reasons Why” but I have heard some of our sixth grade girls talk about it. The world has surely gone mad if this is what entertainment has come to.

Dear Parents,

We have been paying attention, with concern, to the recent release of Netflix's new series, *13 Reasons Why*. The series is based on the book of the same title by Jay Asher and tells the story of Hannah Baker, a high school student who commits suicide and leaves behind cassette tape recordings that identify the thirteen people she holds accountable for her decision to kill herself. The show features graphic depictions of rape and suicide, and also portrays teenage drinking.

Mental health professionals across the country have been alarmed at the approach *13 Reasons Why* takes to depict adolescent suicide with no context for understanding the mental health concerns. For this reason, we felt compelled to reach out to you with some information and guidance.

It is important to note that the series is rated TV-MA, as well as 16+ by Common Sense Media, yet Netflix viewers of any age have access to it, unless parents have actively set up parental controls on their accounts. The show is very popular and is being heavily marketed to adolescents, so—in the absence of such controls—it is likely to appear on your son or daughter's Netflix home screen as a suggested show to watch.

We do not believe that *13 Reasons Why* is appropriate for middle school-aged children. That said, if you do decide to let your child watch it, we recommend that you first watch the show yourself and only allow him or her to watch it with an adult who can discuss it with him or her afterwards.

I just think you should know what some of our kids are watching.

*Sister Merris*

