

October 21, 2019

Adrienne Battle, Ph.D.
Interim Director of Schools
Metro Nashville Public Schools

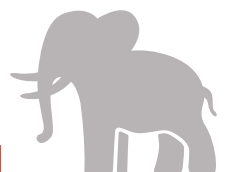
Via e-mail: directorofschools@mnps.org

Dear Dr. Battle,

I'm writing from TeachKind—PETA's humane education division, which works with thousands of educators nationwide to bring compassion into the classroom—after having seen [disturbing reports](#) that a 12-year-old boy was charged with aggravated animal abuse after allegedly beating a cat and throwing her into a dumpster. In light of this incident, we'd like to offer educators in your school system TeachKind's free resources to help ensure that a violent incident like this one never occurs again in your community.

This isn't the first case of cruelty to animals that [PETA has documented](#) in the Metro Nashville Public Schools community. Just [last March](#), a teenager was arrested after reportedly dragging his dog down a north Nashville street while repeatedly striking the animal. In [July 2018](#), a Nashville teenager was charged after allegedly beating her boyfriend's puppy to death, and in [May 2018](#), a Nashville teenager was accused of throwing a rabbit across a room after a video of the event was reportedly posted on social media. As mental-health and law-enforcement experts well know, people who demonstrate a blatant lack of empathy and disregard for life by committing violent acts such as these may be on a dangerous path that could lead to further violence, including toward humans.

In light of this string of disturbing incidents in Nashville, we'd like to work with you to implement humane education in your schools and urge students in your community to report cruelty to animals when they see it. A trauma-informed approach to education should include humane education, which will equip staff with resources to help prevent further violence.



Given the current focus on addressing the national epidemic of bullying and its often tragic results, it's vital and timely that a standard of respect be set and that students understand that harming *any* sentient being is wrong. The prevention of violence should be a priority in the classroom, especially considering that, according to [Tennessee law](#), teachers are encouraged to "help each student develop positive values and improve student conduct as students learn to act in harmony with their positive values and learn to become good citizens in their school, community and society." Incorporating humane education into your schools' curriculum would give you the opportunity to reach kids before they potentially start to engage in violent behavior.

TeachKind is here to help—and we're sending the elementary schools in your district free "[Share the World](#)" curriculum kits. They're perfect tools for teaching young students the Golden Rule and the importance of compassion and empathy. We're also offering the middle and high schools in your district free anti-violence posters from our youth division. Our staff is always available to send additional materials, suggest lesson plans from [TeachKind.org](#), and even host teacher training workshops—all free of charge. We're here to help in any way we can in order to ensure that your efforts to teach kindness are successful.

On behalf of PETA's more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide, including many who proudly reside in Tennessee, thank you for your consideration. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Megan Snyder
TeachKind Coordinator

