

December 5, 2019

Erich May, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Brookville Area School District

Via e-mail: [REDACTED]

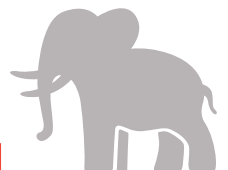
Dear Dr. May,

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 two teenagers from your community are suspected of having kicked a buck in the face who'd been shot, ripped off his antlers, and stepped on his throat. A video of this alleged attack was shared online and has since gone viral. In light of this reported assault, we'd like to offer educators in your school system TeachKind's free resources to help ensure that such violence as that which has been alleged never occurs again in your community.

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 this one may be on a dangerous path that could lead to further violence, including toward humans. **Findings indicate that 43% of school shooters started out by hurting animals.** For example, the shooter in the attack on Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida was reportedly known to have abused animals—such as frogs, chickens, and pigs—before moving on to killing and injuring his classmates.

In light of this disturbing incident which reportedly occurred in Brookville, 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 [humane education is required in Pennsylvania](#), and according to [state law](#), teachers are encouraged to "teach ... basic civil values and character traits" such as "honesty, integrity ... respect ... [and] empathy." 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

501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510

757-622-PETA • TeachKind@peta.org • TeachKind.org

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 joint middle/high school 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 want to help 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 Pennsylvania, thank you for your consideration. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Lisbet Chiriboga, M.S. Ed.
Program Manager

