**Upper School Principal Jason Wenschlag sent an email to the upper school students and to their parents at 1:47 AM on August 3, 2017.**

Parents:

Thank you all for the outpouring of support and prayer you have offered during this incredible tragedy.  While we grieve the loss of two wonderful people (Ruth Berg and John Carlson), and pray for those injured, we will start our planning process soon enough.

We have a lot of smart, creative, and hardworking people who will come together and work hard for our students, faculty, staff, and you.  We have an awesome God and He is going to bring healing, restoration, and renewal.  I will be in touch very soon as decision/plans are made, and if/when we can use some help, thinking, and everything you have offered in response to this.  Thank you!

Also, here is an email I sent students this evening, in case your kid(s) did not get it, or hasn't used our email yet (new students):

Students,

Thank you to the many of you who came to our prayer service tonight.  I was able to meet with a number of you and wanted to share some words with all of you:

1. Again, I love and care for you all, and I'm thankful none of you were hurt.
2. Minnehaha Academy is about community and people, not the building.  We grieve for those injured and those who lost their lives, Ruth Berg (receptionist) and John Carlson (custodian).  Students already found a way to honor John tonight when they brought Dilly Bars to the service...very touching!  Please continue to pray for everyone involved...even the smallest of prayers make a big difference in the Kingdom!
3. Our school year will be different, that is for sure, but we are going to come together, rally around this, and make powerful memories together and lean on each other to get through this.  MA has a large, proud, powerful community across this country, and all of that community will be praying for us, supporting us, and cheering for us.
4. If any of you want to meet with our counselors, they will be available at 9 AM on Thursday at the Lower/Middle School.

Personally, I am sad for our loss and the families of our victims, but I am okay and ready to work with others and lead us through this.  For now, again, we grieve and pray for our community, and I will be in touch with you all soon.  Feel free to email me if you have any questions.