# Transcript

**Ismail Botchway**: Hello and welcome to the first episode of the Teenage Experience Podcast.

**Ismail Botchway**: In today's episode, I will be interviewing students at Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience to ask them how they felt the school helped them cope after the incident.

**Ismail Botchway:** If you don't know what this incident, was, it was the tragic school shooting on October 24th, 2022, at Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience as well as Central Visual and Performing Arts High School.

**Ismail Botchway:** I would just like to say rest in peace to the victims, Jean Kuczka and Alexzandria Bell, and I would like to send my condolences to their family and to all of the students and teachers who were traumatized by this tragic event.

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Ricky Truong**: Uh, my name is Ricky.

**Ismail Botchway**: How do you feel the school helped you cope after the incident?

**Ricky Truong**: Um, I really liked how they brung therapist dogs. They were like, really fun to play with and they were, they were really good, yeah.

**Ismail Botchway:** Ok, Thank you.

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Sembi Smith:** Uh, you are here with Sembi Charles Smith.

**Ismail Botchway:** How do you feel the school helped you cope after the incident?

**Sembi Smith:** But just not having to worry about school li- like the the days off we got after the, you know, it was just not. Yeah, not having to worry about schoolwork or that homework and whatnot and being able to, to sort of process it without that that added pressure from uh like academics. It was definitely very helpful. Um, there were a couple um the school did a couple things in the park, I remember a little bit afterwards. I only showed up for one of those, but that was, that was really, that was fun. Got to see a lot of people who I hadn't seen since then, and I don't know, and I guess I guess the transfer from virtual learning, doing virtual learning and then moving into um in person school was definitely helpful because it was sort of, yeah, we're still doing work. We're we're moving into getting to get back into the routine, but also just being able to stay at home and be comfortable there, was uh very helpful as well, that’s.

**Ismail Botchway:** Ok, Thank you. ‘

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Shenyra Harris:** Shenyra Harris.

**Markayla Robinson:** Markayla Robinson.

**Ismail Botchway:** How do you feel the school helped you cope after the incident?

**Shenyra Harris:** Uh, to be honest, I feel like they didn't. Well, yeah, to be honest, I feel like they didn't, I feel like that was the thing that we had to do on our own, like, especially not being in school for a month after that, after it occurred like. I, me and my friends, we like took it in our own hands and like hung out and planned stuff to do and then also like um when we did come back like there was stuff that they did, but it still didn't feel like it was helping us cope, cope. I feel like it was like a way to, like distract us from the, From the incident, like to distract us from feeling those feelings, so yeah.

**Ismail Botchway:** Ok

**Markayla Robinson:** And I, Shenyra, I completely agree. Um, I, honestly feel like they didn't really help us cope, um but I mean, what can you do in that situation? I think like you have to learn how to cope, like yourself in that type of situation so and when we did come back to school um like it was just very at first it was very we felt very , well I felt very smothered, but after a while, like they did like she was saying, like tiny stuff like, oh, let's, you know, have, like, a a spirit day or, you know, just something like that. Like trying to like what she was saying, just distract us and trying to make us forget the incident. We never really talked about it and we never um Like had that time like as a whole school to really think about what happened, How is this affecting us and they didn't take into consideration on how others cope not just by getting therapists or therapy dogs like, you know, some people coping mechanism is to talk about it. So, they. So yeah, they didn't help.

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Jacob Hicks:** Jacob Hicks

**Ismail Botchway:** How do you feel the school helped you cope after the incident?

**Jacob Hicks:** I think the main way that school helped me was probably Students on the GO! uh which is what I was part of 1/2 marathon training program. Well, you could do the half marathon or the 10K. I was doing the half marathon um and that was an outlet through school that I was connected to people. Um with and it was really good. We started; we started training before we actually came back to school in person after the shooting. So, like I had it been it was an outlet to have people to talk to and see people from school regularly um during that time period, we weren't at school even before we really came back to do school school. And then once we continued coming back to school as all these different things are up in the air, And classes were weird and some other extracurriculars were very up in the air of what, What we were doing and how it was going to shake out like we had a very clear plan for that, that continued on, and so it gave me structure and an outlet to Be with people. That was really helpful.

**Ismail Botchway:** Ok, thanks

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Marlee Willliams:** Marlee Williams.

**Ismail Botchway:** How do you feel the school helps you cope after the incident?

**Marlee Williams:** I think there was definitely an effort to, you know, help us get over it emotionally, but the culture of collegiate kind of overrode those efforts, and um I don't think th- they really succeeded at all, so I can't really answer the question, but I will say I appreciate the effort, but it didn't really work out.

**Ismail Botchway:** Ok, Thank you.

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Kit Roesch:** Uh, Kit Roesch.

**Kit Roesch:** How do you feel the school helps you cope after the incident?

**Kit Roesch:** I think they did a lot of things to really kind of help all of us come back together and recover and grow stronger. um for me, the picnic was super helpful because it was a time to see other people outside of the Schnucks parking lot, um and we all got to hang out and be in a stress-free Environment that wasn't school. And then when we came back to school, all of the posters and all of the stuff they gave us was super sweet and definitely made, like, helped me realize that, like we were stronger than what happened to us and helped us kind of overcome that.

**Ismail Botchway:** Ok, Thank you.

**Kit Roesch:** Yea

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Laura Brown:** Laura

**Ismail Botchway:** How do you feel the school helped you cope after the incident?

**Laura Brown:** I feel like it was good and bad, uh sort of kind of in the middle um after the shooting and we came uh online they, I feel like it was very rushed for us to get back to work and obviously we were we were behind, but I feel like um It wasn't taken into account the mental health of the students because it seemed a lot for me personally to take care of my mental and try to also be active in the classroom um With uh the assigned work and stuff like that, but once we came back in person, it was a little off putting um obviously, but uh I think the school was good in showing support for their students by having um Certified people on campus and also uh providing those counseling services that they did provide and still provide today. So, I think that's that was pretty cool.

**Ismail Botchway:** Ok, thank you.

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Zenga Stroff:** I'm Zenga.

**Ismail Botchway:** How do you feel the school helped you cope after the incident?

**Zenga Stroff:** I think that there was an Effort to try to create um A school community within CSMB um through like the picnics and stuff that happened afterwards. But I think that for the most part we, the administration at the school, tried to ignore that it ha- had happened or just kind of tried to force us back into school. Which I think, was definitely im- important and needed to happen because we are so far behind., but I think that a lot of us weren't ready for that. Like I've talked to a lot of people who just weren't ready to go back to school for full days and that kind of thing and um I think that while the administration has tried to create a community within CSMB student body. We haven't made a lot of efforts to reconnect with CVPA, and that's been really, just strange. Feels like that should be a closer connection.

**Ismail Botchway:** Yeah. Ok, thank you.

**Zenga Stroff:** Yep

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Catherine Stanish:** Catherine Stanish.

**Ismail Botchway:** How do you feel the school helped you cope after the incident?

**Catherine Stanish**: Um, I thought that it was helpful that like they offed the bells and they, you know, change not changed some of the schedules, but they made it a lot more peaceful in the halls, which was a good thing.

**Ismail Botchway:** Thank you.

**Catherine Stanish:** Yeah.

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Tyler Davis:** Tyler

**Ismail Botchway:** How do you feel the school helps you cope after the incident?

**Tyler Davis:** I felt that the teachers were very supportive of our feelings and everything after the uh the incident and I liked how we did a little get together un- at the park and it really , I I think it really helped the students like, you know, like, since like maybe they didn't have anybody to talk to or maybe they didn't have no one to like, look at after because of the incident. And I feel like since the teachers were there and everything, I feel like it really like it really supported the students and it really helped them coop and everything so, yeah.

**Ismail Botchway:** Ok, Thank you.

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Sailesh Bhattarai:** Uh, Sailesh.

**Ismail Botchway:** How do you feel the school helped you cope after the incident?

**Sailesh Bhattarai:** Uh It helped me a lot. They uh they comforted us and uh my favorite part was the therapy dogs, which we could just like get out of class to go whenever we needed to just to calm down and everything. And they did try to give us stuff to help us, and our community really supported us.

**Ismail Botchway:** Ok, thanks.

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Finnegan Barket:** Uh, Finnegan Burke Barket.

**Ismail Botchway:** How do you feel the school helped you cope after the incident?

**Finnegan Barket:** Uh, I feel the school was great at helping students cope with what happened during, you know, the incident. Um I think they had a lot of, they had a lot of therapists. They had a lot of, you know, therapy dogs, uh different mindfulness activities that really helped people get back on their feet, And I think the staff and the teachers and Mr. Steele, too, they were all really. uh They handled the situation really well so that students were able to cope. So, for me, I Feel like it was effective.

**Ismail Botchway:** Ok, thank you.

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Mariam Al-Kenani:** Mariam Al-Kenani

**Ismail Botchway:** How do you feel the school helps you cope after the incident?

**Mariam Al-Kenani:** Um, I think the school did a pretty good job after the incident because I remember that all the teachers were being very supportive. They were like support animals too, um but what I didn't like was that, It was like, A week long thing like it was only a week, and then we went back to things and I felt like that wasn't enough time, but other than that, I think that the school did a good job.

**Ismail Botchway:**  Thank you.

**Ismail Botchway:** Who am I here with today?

**Salena Reeves:** Salena Reeves

**Ismail Botchway:** How do you feel the school helped you cope after the incident?

**Salena Reeves:** Um, I think the school did a pretty good job with, like transitioning, coming back into school and like providing like therapy and making sure you had open sources. It kind of depended on like how like it affected you as a person, but like overall like with what they could have done, it was pretty good.

**Ismail Botchway:** Ok, thank you.

**Ismail Botchway:** Hello, this is Ismail Botchway your host of the Teenage Experience Podcast. I would like to give a brief conclusion on what we have heard today. As you have heard, many students have had mixed reviews on if the school helps students cope after the incident. As one student said, the school did not do a good job of helping us cope and tried to distract us from the incident overall, and they had to take coping mechanisms upon themselves. Another student felt smothered and pointed out that we did not have a full school meeting to talk about what happened. It was almost blindsided. Some students felt the school did a good job in helping them cope with the posters, the picnic before we returned back into the building, the therapy dogs and the therapists. Another student shared that Students on the GO! a school running group, gave him structure and helped him cope. Some students felt the school culture did not allow us to truly cope, and I agree we had homework and homework and homework. There was so much homework, we had to focus on the homework and not even focus on coping. Overall, the school did their best to help us cope, I think, but their methods did not work for everyone. I feel that now heading towards the end of the school year, many students are on the path to coping and we have grown stronger as a school. Thank you for tuning into this podcast. Please follow and share and we will see you next time.