

An Interpretive Birkat HaGomel

You are blessed, Eternal One, and we pray that your blessings continue to grace us.

We began our day yesterday like any other day, grateful for what we have and hoping for freedom from danger or worry. We ended the day surprised and even frightened. We have returned here this morning, beginning with gratitude for the release from that fear. This gratitude may surprise us. We have learned once again about how easy it is to take our safety for granted. This gratitude itself is a blessing. Thank you, Source of Blessing, for opening our hearts to new gratitude, which we express together:

To the sovereign source of protection:

(Together) ***We are grateful.***

To the administration, staff, and faculty of our school, who responded swiftly and with care:

We are grateful.

To our brave law-enforcement officers who came to us rapidly to ensure our safety:

We are grateful.

To all our students, who followed instructions and cooperated to remain safe:

We are grateful.

To our parents and loved ones, who offered us support and comfort in a time of uncertainty:

We are grateful.

We are all *chayavim*--obligated, indebted.

We are obligated.

We have placed our trust in so many beyond ourselves who work tirelessly to keep us safe.

We are indebted.

We are all *chayavim*.

We are all responsible.

We look out for one another and make sure our community is safe. *Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh bazeh.*

All Israel is responsible for one another.

We have been the recipients of blessings.

We are blessed with safety.

We have been the recipients of goodness.

Let our school continue to be a force for good.

May we continue to be blessed in these ways and more.

May we know only good fortune and safety as we find ways to praise you and our world.

Baruch ata adonai eloheinu melech haolam, hagomel lachayavim tovot she'g'malani kol tov.

Amen. Mi she'g'malcha kol tov, hu yigmolcha kol tov, selah.