

Dell Rapids School District

Member of North Central Association

"Home of the Quamiers"

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February 6, 2013

Dear Parents:

First and foremost, we want to assure you of our sincere desire and dedication to the physical, emotional, and educational well-being of your child. The DRSD community of caring and supportive adults have as our mission to provide students the tools and support they need to not only manage their grief but to also move forward in a strong and positive way. In doing so, we are striving to maintain as much normalcy in our school day as possible so students have the comfort of knowing that this portion of their world is a constant and reliable force in an uncertain and sometimes confusing world.

Please let me now take a moment to address the current situation. The death of an individual in the school community is a traumatic event and one to which the school must respond in a caring and supportive way. The development of this protocol comes from a belief that schools are a community of people who care for one another. I would like to share with you the ways we are caring for your child...

- We are partnering with the HelpLine center to offer students 24-hour personal access to professional trained counseling service via suicide crisis hotline telephone number and texting center. Students are being offered contact information and are being encouraged to reach out as they feel the need. In addition, they are being asked to share this information with their friends in order to spread the word as quickly as possible. If you would like the contact information, it is posted on our school district webpage (under "News and Bulletins").
- In addition to three professional school counselors on staff who are available for students in need, we have reached out to the Dell Rapids Ministerial Association, school psychologists, and other trained professionals from the Sioux Falls Area who are here to provide support services to our students and their families. We have set aside an area in the school for students to gather and seek comfort. This has been available all week and will continue to be available.
- We are posting resources for parents and students on our school district webpage (under "News and Bulletins"). There are resources posted at this time and we will continue to update them as we find additional tools we feel can be of use to our students and their families.

In the weeks to come, please encourage your child to seek out help as needed. School counselors, teachers, and administrators are here to help! We understand the grieving process is different for each person. We desire to help students cope and recover in their own personal way and within their own individual timeline. If you have questions, concerns or information to share with us, please call the high school office. We look forward to partnering with you as we deal with this sad loss and look expectantly toward a brighter future.

Sincerely,



Kimberly S. Kludt
High School Principal

Our Mission: Innovate – Inspire – Improve
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