

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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February 4, 2017

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian:

Our school district family has once again been stricken with devastating news with the passing of a 6th grade student at Dudley Middle School last night. I realize that many in our community are already aware of the student's identity, but because authorities have not yet released the student's name, I cannot either at this time.

Today, I met with administration, counseling and teaching staff from Dudley Middle and Dudley Elementary to plan for helping our students deal with this tragic situation. We have put a plan in place which, among many elements, includes:

- Counseling Services available in the Dudley Middle School Library **Sunday February 5 from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**
- Counseling Services on-going at Dudley Middle and Dudley Elementary throughout the week, with extra counseling staff in place at both schools
- By Monday morning, all district administrators, teachers and counselors will have been briefed on our plans and will have received guidelines for what to do when questions or concerns arise.
- Resources for parents on how to talk to young children about death will be posted on our website by the beginning of the week

When times are difficult, our children do better when we all work together. Therefore, if your child has questions, is upset or has been affected by this in any way, I encourage you to take advantage of the expert resources available in our schools. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school if you wish to access our counseling staff or if you have questions on how to handle this as a family. We want to help.

Above all, the thoughts and prayers of this school district are with the family and close friends who have been most deeply affected by this overwhelming tragedy. We hope you will join us in our concern and sympathy for them and in respecting their privacy at this incredibly trying time.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregg J. Desto".

Gregg J. Desto