



SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOLS

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March 29, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may have heard or read, a Schenectady High School student died tragically over the weekend. The administration, staff and students are deeply saddened by this tragedy. While it's a difficult time for all, young people sometimes experience an especially painful time during the grieving process. We want to assure you that we are here to help your students. Below are some resources and steps that we are taking to help you and your child.

A team of administrators worked over the weekend and met early this morning to ensure that we would be ready to assist our students and be ready to communicate our plans to parents and guardians.

Today, we have taken the following steps:

- For safety purposes, we have placed the school in a "modified lockout", so that no one is admitted into the building without administrative approval.
- Counselors, psychologists, social workers, and other pupil services staff were available to privately counsel students.
- Maintained a very quiet building and learning atmosphere for normalcy.
- Contacted parents if students need to be released early.

The faculty will be meeting again at the end of the day today to develop a plan for tomorrow.

Please talk about what happened with your son or daughter tonight. Also remind him or her where to turn for help. Our teenagers have faced a great deal of tragedy over the past year. If your teenager is planning to attend the funeral, we ask you to go with them. Please continue to look for any signs of depression, anger, apathy, loss of appetite, or interest in activities in your teenager. We encourage you to ask your teenager about his or her feelings, friendships, and encourage them to participate in positive activities in and out of school.

.....A national award winning district

We are asking that students not wear “R.I.P.” or memorial clothing. This is in no way meant to be disrespectful to anyone, just keeping our building safe.

Our district collaborates with many community agencies to ensure that our students get any help they need during these tough times.

If you need additional resources please do not hesitate to call our guidance office at 370-8200. Additional resources are posted on our school website and listed below.

Child Guidance Center
Northeast Parent and Child Society
530 Franklin Street Schenectady, NY 12304
Phone: 518-381-8911
Contact: Joe Gallagher, Director

Haven Grief Counseling Center
Grieving Children's Program
703 Union St.
Schenectady, NY 12305
Phone: 518-370-1666
Fax: 518-370-1917

Sincerely,

Gary Comley
Associate Superintendent