

# DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 26, 2017

Dear Depew School Community,

On Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> one of our ninth grade students passed away, as a result of an accident. We extend our condolences to her family. Our thoughts, prayers, and support are with them.

Our Crisis Response Team has met to prepare to help our students, faculty and staff deal with this loss. Our school counselors are available in case anyone is in need of assistance.

If you feel you need to contact your child's teacher, school counselor or principal, please feel free to call as soon as possible, as we will be ready to assist in any way that we can.

**The following may be helpful as you talk with your child:**

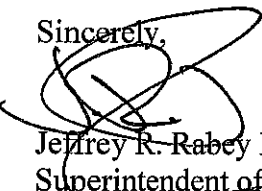
- Tell the truth. Talk about death vs. "going to sleep."
- Allow for your child to talk about feelings. If this is the first loss your child has experienced, your child may not know how to respond and will be looking for your guidance.
- Affirm all expressions. It's okay to express feelings honestly. Tolerate the expressions rather than dismissing them or discouraging the expression of feelings.
- Encourage for written expressions such notes, letters, pictures to the family etc.
- Reaffirm that your child is safe and that your child is loved.
- Affirm that your child's reaction is normal and you understand the way the child's feels.
- Watch for signs of trouble such as aggression, withdrawal etc.
- Help your child return to as normal routine as possible.

**In addition:**

- Resources are available through our school counselors to help children and families deal with death.
- Continued counseling services are available at school if needed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 686-5105.

Sincerely,

  
Jeffrey R. Rabey Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Depew Union Free School District