



# RUSSELL COUNTY USD 407

802 North Main Street, Russell, Kansas 67665 · P: (785) 483-2173 · F: (785) 483-2175 · [www.usd407.org](http://www.usd407.org)

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May 21, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with profound sadness that I write this letter to our USD 407 Russell County community. At 10:22 AM, we lost one of our high school students, Andrew Boettcher, to injuries sustained approximately two weeks earlier.

Our sincere condolences and thoughts go out to his family and friends.

A student death is a difficult and challenging situation that can generate a high level of anxiety and distress in some students. During this time, as the school community processes the tragic news and copes with grief, we will offer counseling services to all of our high school students and staff. A team of counselors will provide support to any students or staff members in need throughout the upcoming days.

Your child may be affected by this tragedy even if he or she did not know the student. I encourage you to talk with your child about what has happened. Discussing thoughts and feelings about this situation is important in helping your child work through his or her grief. Below are two resources to help:

- <https://www.parent.com/blogs/conversations/how-to-help-your-child-navigate-the-death-of-a-friend>
- <https://childmind.org/article/helping-children-deal-grief/>

If you feel your child needs to speak with a counselor, teacher or other adult, please contact the main office at Russell High School.

This is a difficult time for all of us, but I know that our students, staff and community will draw together to work through this tragedy. Please feel free to contact me if there is any way in which I may be of help.

Sincerely,

Jordan Perez  
Superintendent of Schools