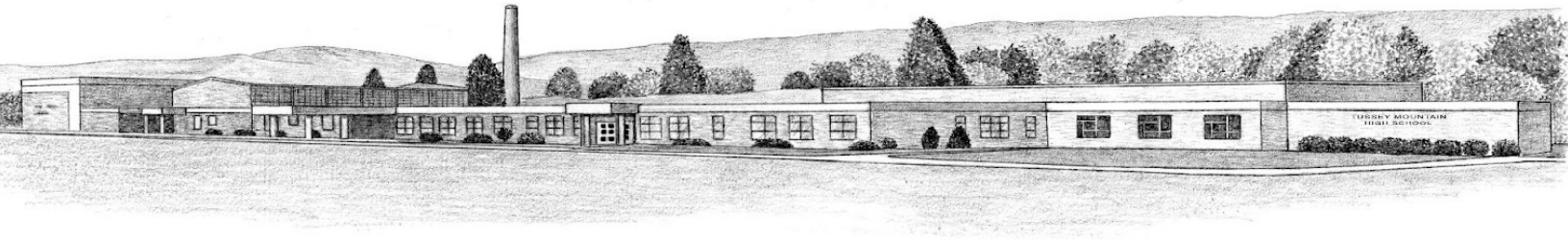
DR. J. JERRY SHOEMAKE, SUPERINTENDENT HARRY L. WATKINS, PRESIDENT JOHN BAUGHMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT BRENDA J. FLUKE-GARBER, **SECRETARY/TREASURER**

TUSSEY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent



December 2, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

After a significant death in the family, grief can be a difficult task for children to cope with alone. *The Healing Patch…A Program for Loss & Hope for Grieving Children & Their Families* is sponsoring a peer support group in collaboration with Tussey Mountain School District. The Healing Patch's mission is to offer support and advocacy to grieving children and their families and to increase community awareness of children's grief issues.

The Healing Patch has partnered with Tussey Mountain School District to provide a six-week grief support group. During your child's participation, group members will participate in group discussions, various expressive arts, and activities to help grieving children and adolescents understand the intense emotions they are feeling and develop skills to help them cope with these feelings. A short description of each theme is included so you'll have an idea of what is covered in each session.

The Middle School group will begin on February 3, 2022 during the school day during 10th period, 2:33- 3:05 in the boardroom in the back office. It will run each Thursday through March 10, 2022.

The Grade School Group will begin on February 3, 2022 during the school day at 1:00-2:00 in the downstairs conference room.

In order for your child to participate in the group, please complete the required forms (Family Questionnaire, & Consent Form) and return to School Social Worker, Robin Neville by Thursday January 20, 2022. Contact Robin to receive these forms. A Healing Patch staff or the school Social Worker will meet with your child prior to enrollment in order to determine the ability of a peer support group to meet your child's needs.

Sincerely,

Robin Neville School Social Worker
rneville@tmsd.net
814-635-2934 x 1215
814-515-0642

Shalen Steinbugl
Healing Patch Volunteer Coordinator/Grief Specialist