



FAIR LAWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A STATEMENT FROM MR. NICHOLAS J. NORCIA, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

TRAGIC LOSS OF TJMS STUDENT

FAIR LAWN, N.J. (April 15, 2019) - It is with sadness that Superintendent Norcia informed the Fair Lawn Public School Community today that one of our Thomas Jefferson Middle School (TJMS) students passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, April 14. Our condolences go out to the student's family and friends. When our school community experiences a tragedy, such as the loss of a young life, it impacts all of us. During this difficult time, the school district will provide counseling support to any students or staff.

"As a father, this is the unthinkable and my heart goes out to the family," said Superintendent Norcia. "I ask anyone who reads this to hug your loved ones a little tighter today."

In districtwide communication to the school community this morning, we notified parents that we will be providing counseling support to any student or staff and offered the following guidance:

- Every child is different and will process this news in his or her own way. You know your child better than anybody else. If you see that your child is grieving, please seek help from our counselors or another trained professional in our community.
- Although our schools are currently closed for Spring Recess, counseling will be available at TJMS on Tuesday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also, when school resumes on Monday, April 22, there will be district and support staff available in all of our buildings to meet the needs of our students and staff. Additional counseling sessions may be scheduled this week and we will communicate with the community in a timely manner should this take place.

"We want the Fair Lawn School community to know that if you feel that your child or family needs some assistance, please contact us, and we will do everything we can to help you," said Superintendent Norcia. "If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. We know you will join us in keeping the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time."

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