



"Home of the Vikings"

# **SIUSLAW SCHOOL DISTRICT 97J**

*Motivating and Preparing All Students to Reach Their Greatest Potential*

Siuslaw Elementary School ♦ Siuslaw Middle School ♦ Siuslaw High School

February 6, 2023

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I am writing this letter with great sadness to inform you of the passing of one of our high school students. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to their family and friends.

In keeping with the wishes of the family, the school will not be making a public release of the name of the student until authorized to do so.

All of the high school students were given the news of the death by a teacher in class this afternoon. I have included a copy of the announcement that was read to them. Members of our trauma response team met with students individually and in groups today and will be available to the students over the next days and weeks to help them cope with the death of their peer.

Care rooms will be set up at all three schools in the district. The High School Care Room will be operating into evenings after school, if students should need to return.

Information about funeral services will be given to the students once it has been made available to us. High School students will be released to attend services only with parental permission and pick up, and we strongly encourage you to accompany your child to any services.

Please do not hesitate to call myself, a building principal or one of the counselors if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael Harklerode, Principal  
Siuslaw High School

Andrew S. Grzeskowiak, Superintendent  
Siuslaw School District

## Student message – shared at the middle and high school:

This morning we heard the extremely sad news that {a student}\* has passed away. We are all saddened by his death and send our condolences to his family. A care room is located in the library for students who wish to talk to a counselor. Information about the funeral will be provided when it is available.

Please be talking to parents or other adults as you process this news. If you are particularly concerned for yourself or somebody else, please let a staff member so we can support everyone.

*\*The student's name has been redacted from general public announcements, as per the wishes of the family.*