

**Matt Nelson**  
Superintendent

**Steve Bussiere**  
Assistant Superintendent

# Sanford School Department

917 Main Street, Suite 200, Sanford, Maine 04073  
Tel: 207-324-2810 Fax: 207-324-5742  
www.sanford.org

**Cheryl Fournier**  
Business Administrator

**Bethany Lambert**  
Curriculum Director

**Stacey Bissell**  
Special Education Director

---

SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Paula Cote, Chair. Amy Sevigny, Vice-Chair  
Jonathan Mapes John Roux Jennifer Davies

Dear Sanford School Staff,

It is with profound sadness that I write this letter to inform you that our district learned this morning of the tragic passing of Savana Tippett, an eleventh-grade student this past year at Sanford High School. Our sincere condolences and thoughts go out to Savana's family and friends. Savana had been a longtime member of the Sanford Spartan family attending Margaret Chase Smith and Sanford Middle School previously.

A student death is a difficult and challenging situation that can generate a high level of anxiety and distress for students and staff. During this time, as the school community processes the tragic news and copes with grief, we will offer counseling and bereavement support services to all of our students and staff. A team of counselors will be available to provide support to any student or staff members in need on **June 22, 2023 from 3-5 pm** at Sanford High School.

I have also included info below to online resources that address students and staff grief.

[https://partnersinhealing.counselingschools.org/activities/conversations-in-the-face-of-grief/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw4s-kBhDqARIsAN-ipH3YWCokdbSnRuSmPWvzsbaLsaZKNyqEDkmgVQsN4WiaHRVod5nZH0aAm2OEALw\\_wcB](https://partnersinhealing.counselingschools.org/activities/conversations-in-the-face-of-grief/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw4s-kBhDqARIsAN-ipH3YWCokdbSnRuSmPWvzsbaLsaZKNyqEDkmgVQsN4WiaHRVod5nZH0aAm2OEALw_wcB)

In addition, if you have a student that you are concerned about please remember our protocol regarding potential suicidal ideation outside of school.

**If a staff member becomes aware that a student is expressing potential suicidal ideation outside of school hours.**

- a. Call 911 immediately. Please have as much information as possible available including the student's name, DOB, address, parent/guardian name, and phone number.
- b. Best practice to call parent/guardian to inform them 911 was called.
- c. Call the principal. If s/he does not answer, please leave a message.
- d. For documentation, please send an email to the principal and the counseling team with details so they may follow up with the family.

We know you will join us in our concern and sympathy for the family.

Sincerely,

Steve Bussiere  
Assistant Superintendent

