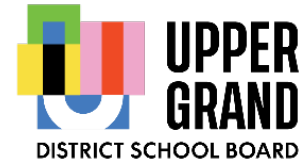


P.12 Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol - Appendix B Sample Letter to Parents



Note: The family of the student who died by suicide has the right to decide how much information is released about the death.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to you with some sad news about a member of our school community.

One of our students attempted/ died by suicide/ died suddenly yesterday/ today/ Saturday/ over the holidays.

Our thoughts are with the student's family and friends.

Today and over the coming weeks, you may be concerned about your child's reaction or expressions of feeling about this news. These reactions and feelings may be part of the grieving process. Many students will wish to talk with their parents, so I have attached some general information which may assist you in those conversations. I also encourage you to let your child know that you are aware of the incident and that you will listen to their concerns at any time they wish to share them. Staying connected and engaged with your child is one of the best ways to support them. When talking about the issue of suicide, try to include discussion about positive ways of managing problems.

Two important messages to promote are that all of us should seek help from others when we feel down or vulnerable, and that young people should tell an adult if they are worried about a friend hurting themselves.

Our school will be concentrating on supporting our students and staff over the next months. This means, among other things, returning the school to normal routines as soon as possible and recognizing that students can be affected by this event for many months to come. If your child is already using the services of a mental health professional, you should ensure this information is shared with them. If your child and you decide that attending the funeral is important (and an option), please provide appropriate information to the school for absence or dismissal.

Please feel free to contact the following staff about the school's support plan or if

you have any concerns about your child. Contacting the nominated staff member is an important way of ensuring you receive consistent and accurate information and of us to be aware of all parent concerns.

Staff Member

Contact

Staff Member

Contact

Yours sincerely,

Principal

Sample