



HOLLY W. SAYRE
Superintendent of Schools

June 19, 2024

Dear Charger Parents and Students,

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I write to inform you of the tragic loss of a recent graduate within the Carbondale Area community. We are devastated by this loss, and our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Out of respect for the family, we are not releasing any other additional details.

As you speak with your child about what they may have heard or may be feeling during this time, we thought you may find the following information helpful.

A sudden loss like this can have a strong emotional effect in students. For that reason, please listen to what your child may have to say regarding the death and discuss his/her feelings and reactions. Sudden death is always a painful experience to understand. Your child may experience signs of stress which may include:

- Difficult sleeping
- Changes in sleeping habits
- Inability to concentrate
- Absentmindedness
- Thoughts about death or dying
- Isolation
- Withdrawing from normal activities and friends
- Guilt
- Fearfulness and worries
- Confusion

The District does have grief counselors available at the jr./sr. high school. Counselors will be available at the jr./sr. high school today, June 19, 2024, from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM, and tomorrow, June 20, 2024, from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. Additionally, please feel free to contact Mr. Joe Farrell, Carbondale Area Jr./Sr. High School Principal, at joseph.farrell@carbondalearea.org or 570-282-4500 if you feel your child is experiencing signs of unusual stress. Please see the following page for resources for students and families dealing with grief.

On behalf of the Carbondale Area family, our deepest sympathies are extended to the family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Holly W. Sayre".

Holly W. Sayre
Superintendent of Schools
Carbondale Area School District



Resources for Students and Families Dealing with Grief

Resources for Students

- Helping Kids Grieve: Includes videos, articles and printable activities for children 0-10: <https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/grief/>

Resources for Families

- National Traumatic Stress Network: Resources for parents to support their navigation of the grief process for children: <https://www.nctsn.org/what-is-child-trauma/trauma-types/traumatic-grief>
- Child Mind Institute: A guide with advice from several experts on how to help children cope with grief. Tips on what to say, who should say it and how to help: <https://childmind.org/guide/helping-children-cope-with-grief/>
- National Alliance for Grieving Children: Downloadable toolkit to help families, peers, and children learn to cope with a loss.: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/5229bd5d-3bbe-460d-9558-e3fcdd327194>
- Hospice of the Sacred Heart: Bereavement Support from a Grief Counselor Jennifer Seechok (570) 706-2400

Immediate Crisis Support

- Scranton Counseling Center Crisis Intervention: Support from a clinician to deal with immediate crisis behaviors to determine the appropriate level of care
329 Cherry Street Scranton PA (570) 348-6100
- Children's Service Center: Phone support to screen and refer to a mental health case worker
335 South Franklin Street Wilkes-Barre
133 West Tioga Street Tunkhannock
(570)825-6425 (570) 836-2722 (570) 829-1341