



PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

134 YARDLEY AVENUE • P.O. BOX 338 • FALLSINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA 19058-0338

July 21, 2023

Dear Pennsbury School Community,

It is with great sorrow that I inform you of the tragic loss of a 4th-grade student from Afton, who was taken from us far too soon. We extend our deepest condolences to the family for their loss.

When the death of a student occurs, it is particularly difficult and presents us with many questions that we may not be able to answer right away. In addition, many members of our community may be impacted (either directly or indirectly) by this loss.

Counselors will be available on Saturday morning from 10 am - 1 pm at Afton Elementary to provide support to students, families, and staff members.

If you feel that your child is having difficulty coping with this event, please reach out to your building principal for assistance. We will work to support students during the days and weeks ahead.

Please keep in mind that any traumatic event can trigger an emotional reaction, even to an unrelated event (family illness, prior losses, etc.). Please review the below links for suggestions on how to comfort someone after an unexpected loss and common characteristics of children who may be having difficulty coping (see links below).

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and understanding during this tragic time. In times of grief, our community can find strength in unity.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
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215-428-4111

Trauma and Grief Resources

[Helping Children Dealing with Grief](#)
[How to Help a Grieving Teen](#)
[Books for Children Dealing with Loss or Trauma](#)
[Addressing Grief](#)
[Good Grief Resource Site](#)