

# Somerset Public Schools

## Somerset Berkley Regional School District

*All Students Achieving Excellence*

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July 25, 2018

Dear Families,

It is with deep sadness that I write this letter informing you that one of our Chace Street School students died yesterday in a tragic accident while riding his bicycle in Bristol. Our sincere condolences and thoughts go out to the family and friends at this very difficult time.

Understanding and coping with a sudden and tragic death is difficult for students and adults alike. As a school community, we will try to absorb this tragic news and assist our students through the grieving process by offering counseling services in the coming days and into the next school year as needed. The Somerset Public Schools will have school psychologists and school adjustment counselors on hand at Chace Street School on Thursday and Friday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and at Somerset Middle School on Thursday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. They will be available to counsel students and to talk with parents about how best to discuss a tragedy like this with their children. All students and families are welcome.

The following resources are available for parents to use to have conversations with their children about the grieving process and coping with loss.

**The Dougy Center (National Center for Grieving Children and Families)**

[How to Help a Grieving Child](#)

[Talking with Children About Tragic Events](#)

**National Association of School Psychologists**

[Addressing Grief](#)

[Helping Children Cope with Loss, Death, and Grief](#)

**National Alliance for Grieving Children**

[10 Ways to Help a Grieving Child](#)

[Talking to Kids about Death and Dying](#) (video)

**Riverside Trauma Center**

[Understanding the Grief of Children](#)

[Books for Children on Understanding Death and Dying](#)

[Normal/Expected Reactions to Death](#)

[Tips on Coping: How we React to Death](#)

[Talking with Your Children About Traumatic Events](#)

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Schoonover  
Superintendent of Schools