



# Howell Township Public Schools

PROUD OF OUR SCHOOLS – CONCERNED FOR OUR CHILDREN

Robert K. Henig, Ed.D.  
Principal

Deana Farinick  
Vice Principal – White House  
Peter Goodall  
Vice Principal – Blue House

December 12, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I regret to inform you that, sadly, we learned that one of our sixth-grade students died last night. I know that many of us in the school community will be greatly affected by this death and I am sure that you join me in sending kind thoughts and condolences to the family, as well as to the other members of our school family who will be impacted by this loss.

At this time, the students have not been notified of this news. We do not plan to share the information with students today, unless necessary, in order to give you an opportunity to discuss it with your children in a way that is most appropriate for your family. We will, however, be speaking with students first thing tomorrow morning. Your conversations with your children this evening will be helpful in preparing them to initially process this sad news. Information is included below and on our school website that may be helpful to you at this time.

Please be assured that our school has a crisis plan in place to prepare us for meeting the needs of the school community at difficult times like this. Our staff members have been trained in the most developmentally appropriate ways to be supportive to your children, and we will structure both group and individualized opportunities to provide your children with the help they may need. We realize that the next few days will be challenging; however, we can assure you that we are prepared to address your children's needs. If you would like to talk with us about any individual concerns you may have about your children, please do not hesitate to contact your children's guidance counselor.

I know that we, as a compassionate school community, will come together to support one another during this difficult time. Our deepest sympathies remain with the family.

Sincerely,

*Robert K. Henig*  
Robert K. Henig, Ed.D.  
Principal

- [What Parents Can do.](#)
- [Signs of Grief children and Teens.](#)
- [How to talk to Children and Teens Grieving.](#)
- [Local Grief support centers](#)