

Dear Parents and Guardians,

February 16, 2021

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of a valuable and much loved member of our school community, Mr. Nathan Everhart, our School Nurse/Guidance Counselor. Mr. Everhart touched the lives of many students, families and staff members as he sought to care for us in every way. He died on Sunday February 14th while cross country skiing with his wife. A sudden loss like this can have an effect on students. For that reason, we hope that you will listen to your child as well as discuss with them their feelings and reactions to this tragedy. Sudden death is always painful to understand, and your adolescent may experience signs of stress. These include:

- difficulty sleeping
- changes in sleeping
- inability to concentrate
- absentmindedness
- irritability
- increased aggression
- thoughts about death or dying
- isolation
- withdrawing from normal activities and friends
- guilt
- fearfulness and worries
- use of alcohol or other drugs
- risk-taking behaviors (i.e., riding a bike carelessly; use of firearms, and "dares" to participate in dangerous behaviors)

Counselors will be available at the school throughout the week to talk with students who are experiencing difficulty with this loss. If you have concerns about your child, please call Pam Swanseger, School Guidance Counselor at 814-273-1033 ext 2521 or the middle school main office at ext 2900. If your child was close to Mr. Everhart, we urge you to call us for additional suggestions. Please contact Edinboro Counseling and Psych Services for any crisis counseling needs after school hours (814-323-0384).

On behalf of James W. Parker Middle School, I have extended our sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Everhart on this sad occasion. We will continue to inform you of the school's steps in supporting students and their families. Please do not hesitate to call us if you have any questions or information that you would like to share.

Sincerely,



Jason T. Buto  
Principal of James W. Parker Middle School  
K-12 Curriculum Coordinator