

Dear Woodward-Granger Parents, Staff and Students,

It is a very sad day at Woodward-Granger Schools as we grieve the death of one of our students, W-G Elementary second grade student, . Our thoughts and prayers are with family, parents, , and siblings .

This death is sure to raise emotions, concerns, and questions for our school district and especially our students. Our school district has a Grief Response Team made up of professionals trained to help with the needs of students and school personnel at difficult times.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these resources will be available in a way to support those with needs while also following the guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health on social distancing.

A resource available to you is our Student Assistance Program through Employee and Family Resources (EFR). EFR is aware of the situation and prepared to serve our students and families. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like assistance during this difficult time. There are three, easy ways to connect with EFR:

- Phones are answered 24-hours a day and can be reached at 800.327.4692.
- [Chat with EFR online](#) This is a resource to provide ongoing virtual support

As you spend time with your child(ren), be mindful of some common emotions and reactions to grief:

Anger	Guilt	Fear of abandonment
Denial	Regression	Increase dependence on adults
Change in behavior	Silence	Disinterest in preferred activities
Withdrawal	Over activity	“Model” behavior (the perfect child)

When you see these behaviors, you are encouraged to take the following steps:

- Don't punish regressive behavior.
- Understand your child's sense of security has been diminished.
- Answer repeated questions patiently.
- Routine and rules are very important for grieving kids.
- Give your child permission to tell others how they feel.
- Teach your children how to honor life.
- If you have concerns about your child regarding this event, or if they themselves have questions, do not hesitate to contact your child's school counselors for further assistance.

Administrators contacted school staff this morning, and our grief response team is dedicated to providing support to students who have been impacted by this tragic event. If you would like a member

of our grief response team to reach out to your student for a non-emergency matter, please contact your child(ren) school. Someone will connect with you in the near future.

Again, if there is anything we can do to support your student, please let us know. We encourage you to continue to respect the privacy of the family as they grieve during this time.

Thank you,

Matt Adams, Superintendent  
Woodward-Granger CSD