



# Clark Public Schools

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Dear Members of the Clark Schools Community,

I am writing to you with great sadness that Michael Sot, an ALJ graduate, passed away this afternoon after being in a tragic car accident this past weekend. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family and friends.

Our counselors are readily available to each and every student as they grieve. We have arranged to have counselors from Union County's Traumatic Loss Coalition for Youth Program (TLC) to be on site working alongside our school counselors throughout the day tomorrow assisting students who are affected by this death. If you are concerned about your child, please do not hesitate to contact his or her school and arrangements will be made for him or her to be seen by one of our counselors.

We understand that not all students will be impacted by this tragedy in the same way and we plan to maintain our usual routine while at the same time providing flexibility in the schedule for those that are grieving. We will provide grief-counseling services for those students who require assistance for as long as this assistance is needed.

Most youth will cope effectively with this tragic event, but some may have a more difficult time. Those who were closest with him or his siblings, or are friends with his family, may need some extra intervention to assist them in processing their feelings and reactions. Youth who may have sustained a recent loss of any kind of their own or who may be going through a particularly stressful time may also need some additional assistance. Our teachers and staff members will be observant over the next days and weeks for any signs that one of our students is struggling and we will contact the child's parents to apprise them of our observations.

Please do not hesitate to call the school or to speak with any of our counseling staff members to discuss any concerns that you may have about your child or one of his or her friends. Most importantly, let us all keep Michael and his family in our thoughts and prayers at this most difficult of times.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Grande

