

From the Office of the Principal

September 10, 2018

Dear Denver School of the Arts Families,

It is with extreme sadness we share with you that one of our high school orchestra students, Veronica Williams, passed away over the weekend. This is an unexpected loss for our school community. We are respecting the family's request for privacy at this time. If we become aware of more information we will inform the community.

The DSA staff were notified of this news this morning. High school orchestra students were notified by the DSA student services team, as well as DPS crisis team, who were available to assist students in coping with their feelings and concerns. Crisis team members are DPS school psychologists and social workers from around the district. Continued support will be available for students and staff throughout the day tomorrow. We will be following up with students who need additional support.

If you speak to your child at home, and feel that follow-up support is needed, please inform us so that we can meet with your child one-on-one at school. Please review the accompanying materials, which provide age-specific information on death and grieving to guide you in this process.

In addition, please be mindful of the following signs which may indicate that your child is having difficulty in the wake of this news, and know that with time, they should decrease. Signs of stress include:

- Most importantly, marked changes in usual ways of behaving, including decline in school productivity or mood changes
- Changes in sleeping or eating problems
- Disorganization
- Withdrawing behaviors
- Easily distracted
- Physical symptoms
- Acting out behavior, including aggression
- Passivity or listlessness
- Tearfulness

Our thoughts are with the student's family at this time. We will continue to process this sad news as a school community, and again, please feel free to reach out as needed for ongoing support.

Sincerely,



William M. Kohut
Principal