

Winston Churchill High School
11300 Gainsborough Road
Potomac, MD 20854
240.740.5400



Mr. John Taylor, *Principal*
Dr. La Faye Howard, *Assistant Principal*
Mr. Daniel Miller, *Assistant Principal*
Mr. Christopher Paskvan, *Assistant Principal*
Ms. Monica Taliani, *Assistant School Administrator*
Mrs. Lisa Wellek, *School Business Administrator*

July 5, 2022

Dear Winston Churchill High School Families and Community:

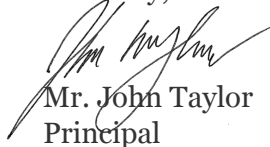
I am deeply saddened to be writing to you with tragic news today. Over the holiday weekend, I was notified of the untimely death of one of our rising 11th grade students. We are not identifying the student out of respect for the family's wishes who are asking for privacy as they process this tragic loss. This news is devastating and heartbreaking for me and our whole Winston Churchill community and is difficult to accept. I have shared with the family that our thoughts and most heartfelt sympathy are with them.

It is true that the death of anyone close to us, especially a young person, can be emotionally challenging. Our deepest sympathies and thoughts are with the student's family and friends during this difficult time. You may be concerned about the reaction of your child to this news of the loss of a classmate. Many students will wish to talk with their parents, so I have linked (see below) some general information that may guide you in those conversations.

As we collectively grieve, we are ready to help support you and your children at the school. Counseling services will be available at school for those in our summer programs and any students who would like to come in for support as needed. We encourage you to talk with your child and take the time to listen closely to their concerns and questions. If you feel that your child would benefit from talking with one of our school counselors or other mental health staff, please reach out by calling the school office at 240-740-5400.

The death of a child in our community is a loss for all of us, we will grieve together, and support each other, because that is important at a time like this. Should you have any questions don't hesitate to call or email me. We are here for you.

Sincerely,



Mr. John Taylor
Principal

Helpful Resources

- [When Grief/Loss Hits Close to Home: Tips for Caregivers](#)
- [Addressing Grief in Children: Tips for Parents and Educators](#)
- [Helping Children Deal With Grief](#)
- [How Children Understand Death & What You Should Say](#)
- [Tips for Supporting Children Who Are Grieving](#)
- [Consejos para apoyar a los niños que están de duelo](#)

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From MCPS

- [MCPS Be Well 365](#)
- [Office of Student Family Support and Engagement](#)

Important Support Phone Lines

- Montgomery County Crisis Hotline - 301-738-2255
- Montgomery County Crisis Center - 240-777-4000
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for MCPS staff - 240-401-6498