

Teacher Script

It's with a sad heart that I need to let you know Mr. Segrist passed away _____ (yesterday, today, this morning, etc.).

For all of us, this is very sad news. For those of you that have lost someone close to you in the past, hearing this news today may bring back all of the emotional feelings you had when your loved one passed away.

It is important for you to know that most people diagnosed with cancer do NOT die. Unfortunately, Mr. Segrist had to battle a very tough type of cancer and although he was an extremely strong man and tried everything the doctors said, there wasn't anything else his doctors could do to help him. We can all be very proud of how brave Mr. Segrist was battling cancer.

One thing we definitely know is that all the cards you made for Mr. Segrist totally brightened his days the past months. He absolutely loved the scarlet and grey chain links going throughout the building. He knew we were all supporting him.

Mr. Segrist and his smile will be missed by all of us at Mason Intermediate. Mr. Segrist's family will also miss him dearly.

We have typed up a letter for your parents and emailed it to them through Edline. For anyone whose parents are not on Edline, let me know and I will print out a copy for you to take home.

At this time we are going to make paper flowers for Mr. Segrist's family. We will write nice things about what we remember and like about Mr. Segrist on the flower pedals.

Some examples include:

- We are sorry for your loss, We will miss Mr. Segrist at school
- I am thinking about you (your family)
- Mr. Segrist was a good guy; he will be missed by many

(Teachers, please pull up the powerpoint presentation; the powerpoint contains ideas of what to write, feel free to add to these and write them on the board for students to see)

You guys are a great group of kids. I know you will do your best to make Mr. Segrist's family and friends feel good during this sad time for them.

Does anyone have any questions. . .

(Remember, it is appropriate to allow plenty of time for questions b/c kids need to process and be permitted to express their feelings, questions, concerns, etc.).

(If at any time during the "talk" or the question portion, teachers can direct emotional students to their wing's "safe room".)

Safe room locations are:

Building 45:

- 00 Wing - Room 012 & Room 008
- 100 Wing- Room 125 & Room 108
- 200 Wing- Room 241 & Room 125
- 300 Wing- Room 308 & Room 312
- 500 Wing (5th gr) - Room 512 & Room 511

Building 56:

- 1st Floor 100 Wing (orange)- Room 120 C & Room 119
- 1st Floor 100 Wing (yellow) - Room 169 & Room 170C
- 2nd Floor 200 Wing (light blue)- Room 219 & Room 220C
- 2nd Floor 200 Wing (light green)-Room 269 & Room 270
- 600 Wing (5th gr) - Room 610D

Receptionist Script

Yesterday, Mr. Dave Segrist, Associate Principal, passed away after a long battle with Pancreatic Cancer. This is a very difficult situation for many of our staff and students and we have taken proactive measures to work through the grieving process. At this time we do not have specific information about the arrangements and donations. All of the information will be posted on the district website www.masonohioschools.com as soon as it becomes available.

Talking points if parents ask.

- Our teachers will spend some time this morning talking to the students about this tragedy. They read a script to the students.
- The students will be given time to write their thoughts on paper flower petals. The petals will be assembled to create larger flowers for Mr. Segrist's family.
- We also have established safe rooms in each wing staffed with grief counselors. The students will have access to these rooms and counseling support throughout the day.

If parents ask about flowers or donations:

- There will be a Dave Segrist Memorial Fund established. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating. It will go to a scholarship for one Mason student and one Kings student considering Ohio State University. Details will be available on the district website.

Tips for Teacher-led Discussion

DO:

- If after reading the script, you are uncomfortable communicating this information to your class, please notify your grade level counselor ASAP
- Keep to the script when talking to the kids, do not add details or share personal stories
- You are encouraged to share this information as a team so that your partner can watch the class for reactions and substitute teachers do not have to communicate this to the kids
- Be aware and check-in with your students who you know have had personal situations related to cancer, especially if the student or any immediate family members have had cancer
- If students want to share their personal stories, encourage them to do so in their journals
- Encourage students to ask you questions once working on the activity. Answer questions as honestly and as simply as possible
- If a student is upset and has difficulty, notify your counselor, psychologist or administrator for assistance.

Things to AVOID:

- Do not have a question-answer period; answer questions individually while they are working on the activity
- Do not be judgmental or make value statements about the feelings, concerns or perceptions of others
- Do not discount anyone's reaction to this news.
- Do not expect everyone to see things in the same way or to have the same depth of understanding.
- Do not force everyone to participate in the activity.

** If at any time you need some support, contact anyone in the guidance department or an administrator

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Safe Room Process:

If a student becomes upset or wishes to speak to an adult, please send the student to a safe room located in your wing. The safe room will be identified by a bright sign on your door. Please ask the student to bring his/her planner to the safe room with them.

Once the student comes to the safe room, the following process will occur:

- 1) Student will be signed in.
- 2) Student will engage either 1:1 or in a small group discussion/activity for 20-30 minutes.
- 3) If further assistance is needed, student will be escorted to grade level counselor for 1:1 support. A follow-up phone call will be placed by counselor to parents.
- 4) Students who are done with small group discussion and ready to return to the classroom will have:
 - Note to parents explaining support given to their child
 - Strategies to help them cope with the feelings, "If I am upset today I will..."
 - Note/bookmark will be stapled into student planner

The Safe Room will be closed during the lunch/recess period. The Safe Room personnel will meet in the Media Center, Bldg. 45 for debriefing, lunch and plan for the afternoon.