



June 7, 2023

Interim Superintendent's Message: Sad news at Malibu High School

Dear Malibu Parents, Guardians, Students, Staff and Community Members,

We are sad to learn of the loss of a Malibu High School student and we share in your grief. Her passing comes as a shock to all of us. During this time of great sorrow, the District Leadership Team and School Board want you to know that we are here to support you and care deeply.

At this time, as has been communicated by Malibu High School Principal Patrick Miller, we do not have full details of the cause of death, nor do we have permission from the family to share the student's name. We continue to respect the family's privacy during this time.

With school out for summer in a few days, it is important for parents to understand that feelings students may have about this tragedy may take days, weeks or months to fully manifest and support may be needed after the close of school for summer.

As mentioned in Principal Miller's email yesterday, support services are available on campus through June 12 for our students who need to process, gather, grieve or meet with a counselor or school psychologist. Following up to the site's email yesterday, we want to share both school-based and community resources that may be helpful.

The following resources are available now and during summer, including the Malibu Boys & Girls Club Wellness Center. Graciously, the Wellness Center has agreed to remain available to students and families requiring additional support throughout the summer months.

Wellness Center Malibu B&GC 424-209-4907 www.bqcmalibu.org/wellness-center

In addition, the following outside community resources are available now and during the summer. Please call ahead to arrange a visit:

Mindpath Health

818-921-4300 Calabasas

Ludington Institute for Family Enrichment

805- 449-4375 <http://www.ludingtoninstitute>

Our House (Grief Support)

310-473-1511 ext 218 (Intake for Los Angeles and Woodland Hills)

Pepperdine Community Counseling

310-568-5752 Los Angeles

Providence St. John's Health Center – Child and Family Development Center
310-829-8921 Santa Monica

Venice Family Clinic - 310-392-8636

Family Service of Santa Monica - 310-451-9747

As parents, conversations with students after loss can be hard. The following online resources may be of help as you support your children.

Grief and Loss: What Can Families Do? https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/programs/healthy-lifestyles/2021/grief-and-loss-education_what-can-families-do.pdf

Tips for Supporting Teens After the Loss of a Close Friend:

https://www.dougy.org/assets/uploads/TDC_2_Tips_for_Supporting_the_Grieving_Teen_After_Loss_of_Close_Friend_2018.pdf

Addressing Grief: Helpful article from the National Association of School Psychologists:

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-safety-and-crisis/mental-health-resources/addressing-grief>

Our [mental health & wellness webpage](#) also has excellent resources including mindfulness, movement and exercise, sleep support and other hotlines and helplines for adults and children.

Our heart and thoughts are with her family, friends and the Malibu community of educators and staff who knew her and who serve all our students.

Please take care of yourself, your families and each other.

Sincerely,

Mark O. Kelly, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent