

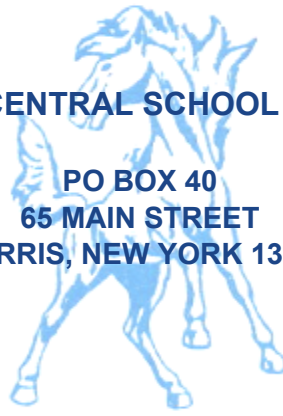
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MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PO BOX 40
65 MAIN STREET
MORRIS, NEW YORK 13808

ADMINISTRATION
JAMIE MAISTROS
Superintendent

APRIL VUNK
Principal



April 6, 2024

Dear Caregivers,

As you may be aware, our community and school have suffered the loss of an important member of our team. We are incredibly sorry to share that Mike Packard, our esteemed technology teacher, passed away unexpectedly. Pac, as our students fondly call him, has been teaching at Morris since September 1987 and is an absolute pillar of our community.

The purpose of this letter is to share with you what the next steps are and how we will be helping students deal with the confusion, grief, and uncertainty that may come up as we make our way through this challenging year. Our crisis team met on Saturday and has prepared a statement that will be read to students in grades 6-12. Additionally, the building will be open on Monday (April 8th) from 11 am - 1 pm for students who need to drop in. We will have additional counselors available when students return to school on Tuesday. Staff will gather early Tuesday morning to receive guidance on supporting upset students. We will do our best to balance the need for routine with all the emotions that may arise. Grief can appear in a million ways, and there are *no wrong feelings*.

As parents, you will want to observe your children for signs of emotional distress. We ask that you contact our counseling office directly at (607) 263-6116 if you or your child need additional support. We have an exceptional crisis team working behind the scenes and are glad to connect any and all members of the Morris community with the appropriate support. You can find more resources on our website at <https://www.morriscsd.org/RepondingtoChangeandLossResources.aspx>

We will be in touch about future plans. CSE and 504 meetings set for Tuesday, April 9th, will be rescheduled. Please take care of one another today and in the season to come. Honor whatever feelings come up and communicate your needs so that we can help support one another.

Take care,

Mrs. Jamie Maistros
Superintendent

Mrs. April Vunk
Principal