



Dear Parents or Guardians,

To better meet the needs of our students, our school is pleased to offer a support group for students who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, grandparent, other family member, friend or other significant person in their lives. The loss does not have to be recent for a student to benefit from the group; the death might have occurred long ago, but the student hasn't yet worked through all their feelings about the death. The group provides grief support and education. Fun, age-appropriate activities provide participants with a safe environment in which to explore the many feelings and experiences of grief. Please understand a peer grief support group model may not be best suited for everyone.

Grief support can help all of us better understand the feelings and changes brought about by a death. Studies suggest that extra support following a loss can help students function better at home and school and gives them a special place for healing. The grief support group at our school will be facilitated by staff from Lory's Place, a Grief Healing and Education Center for Children and Families, located in St. Joseph. Lory's Place is committed to children, teens and adults who are grieving and provides support which offers hope, so the healing process can begin. The group will meet for one class period, once a month. All students attending will be expected to keep up with their school work. We will work around any test dates so as not to interfere with your child's academic schedule.

After discussing this opportunity with your child/teen, please share your permission with the guidance office/counseling staff. Upon receiving permission, the staff of Lory's Place and school personnel will discuss group membership. We will be following your schools safety guidelines to ensure best practices. Please feel free to call the guidance counselor for your child or contact Lory's Place, at 269-983-2707, for more information.

Caring together,

Building hope and strength for every grieving family

445 Upton Drive St. Joseph, MI 49085 phone: (269) 983-2707 fax: (269)983-2740 www.lorysplace.org