



*Morley Stanwood Community Schools
4700 Northland Dr.
Morley MI 49336
231-856-4392*

May 28, 2022

Dear Morley Stanwood Community Family,

I am writing to you today with a heart heavy with hurt. Friday afternoon our community lost the lives of three beautiful children and their mother. One of those children was a student at Morley Stanwood Elementary School. How it happened, why it happened, is not the focus of this letter. The loss of a life is always difficult, but when that loss is tragic, and yes senseless, it is that much harder to deal with.

There are a lot of emotions to deal with and to process as a result of this terrible loss. We want to give our Mohawk family and greater community a time and place to mourn, to weep, to pray and to begin healing. We all grieve in our own way. MSCS wants to offer a time and space to begin that process. Our school district would like to invite you to a candlelight vigil being held at the Morley Stanwood football field Monday evening at _7:00_pm. Community members and families can walk the track, sit in the bleachers, visit with friends and families or just sit quietly and reflect.

Tuesday will be a challenging day for everyone; staff and students alike, when school resumes. Besides our own social workers and staff, we will have additional counselors and trauma specialists at the school to work with students as they need. It is important that our staff, students and families come together to support each other during this time of loss, and at the same time wish each other well and say good-bye for the summer.

As I imagine you have heard on the news these deaths were the result of a homicide. It is important that you know, despite rumors, there was not an active shooter situation at the schools. News and situations like this stir a great many feelings and emotions in all of us, myself included. We all handle them differently, not better or worse, just differently. Please do not be afraid to reach out and ask for help if your children, or you, need someone to talk to. Do not hesitate to call someone if you find your child(ren) or family struggling with this horrible loss that has gripped our community. We at MSCS and our surrounding community are like family. I believe that in my heart and soul. And as a family, we will get through this better together.

The following phone numbers to various agencies if you need to reach out to someone.

MH – Community Mental Health for Central Michigan 231-796-5825

WISE – Women Information Services 231-796-6600

DHS – Department of Health and Human Services 231-796-4300

With all my heart,

Roger Cole, Superintendent of Schools