

What to Say After a Student Death

Guidance for communicating with clarity, compassion, and care.

Talking to Students

- Acknowledge the loss directly and simply
- Use clear, age-appropriate language
- Allow space for silence and emotion
- Remind students that support is available

Talking to Faculty & Staff

- Share confirmed information only
- Encourage consistent, compassionate messaging
- Provide guidance on supporting students
- Remind staff of available support resources

Communicating with Parents/Community

- Express sympathy and acknowledge the loss
- Share appropriate, verified details
- Provide information on available support services
- Reinforce commitment to student wellbeing

Email / Written Communication Tips

- Keep messages clear, brief, and factual
- Avoid speculation or unnecessary detail
- Use a calm and respectful tone
- Always include support resources

 WHAT TO AVOID

- Speculating about cause of death
- Using graphic or sensational language
- Over-explaining or overwhelming details
- Minimizing grief or rushing recovery