



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Center

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Dear El Modena Educational Family,

The El Modena High School community is mourning an unimaginable tragedy following the loss of a student, who died Monday evening at the hospital because of injuries he sustained on campus in a solo vehicular accident. Orange paramedics responded immediately to the accident and transported the student to the hospital. This was a young man who had his entire life ahead of him, and we are heartbroken by this incident.

Words are insufficient to describe the pain our students and staff are now feeling. As we take the steps necessary to support the family and student body, our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, loved ones and friends. In this time of mourning, we ask that everyone respect the family's privacy.

Our top priority as a district has always been to ensure the safety, health and well-being of those we are privileged to serve. More than anything, we owe it to our students to provide them with safe and supportive campuses that cultivate learning.

This tragic accident has devastated our community, and we continue to gather the facts. We will work closely with our law enforcement partners as they complete their investigation into the circumstances of this accident.

In the meantime, to help our El Modena School community through the grieving process, we have dispatched a team of school psychologists who will be available to those who were close to this young man, as well as anyone struggling with this loss. We would further encourage parents to talk to their children as appropriate and to seek out additional counseling at school or through their own providers if necessary.

Once again, we are struggling to find the words to convey the shock and heartbreak we are all feeling. Nevertheless, we mourn this loss together, as one community that has so often demonstrated strength, resilience, faith and compassion.

Sincerely,

Gunn Marie Hansen, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Orange Unified School District