

Community Relations

Memorials for Deceased Students or Staff

The Amity Regional School District No. 5 (District) recognizes the far-reaching impact a student's or staff member's death may have on other students, staff, families and the community. The District believes that remembrance of a student or staff member whose life ended during his/her years in the School District should be consistent and equitable from case to case, and considerate of the grief process of family, friends, and coworkers, and in accordance with Board policy. Further, the District recognizes that decisions made about memorials immediately after traumatic events may not take into full consideration the potential impacts to students, staff, and community members. Memorials set a precedent for the future and need to be equitable. The purpose of this policy is to assist staff, students, and families affected by a death by providing guidelines for decision-making regarding memorials and memorialization activities.

Memorial gifts/fund raisers organized in school must have the consent of the school administration and any other consent as required by District policies and/or procedures. The District's established processes and procedures for fund raisers should be followed. Students and staff may be given direction as to what is appropriate as a memorial. Suggested memorials include a blood drive, partnering with local nonprofit organizations and related activities, or establishing a scholarship. It is required that the family of the deceased student or staff member should also provide consent before engaging in the activity.

The preferred method for memorializing a deceased member of the school community is by means of a memorial scholarship. Criteria for the memorial scholarship may be developed by the individual or group wishing to honor the deceased member of the community. Criteria shall be finalized in consultation with the high school Principal and the Director of Counseling Services. Memorial scholarship awardees shall be selected solely by the high school scholarship committee following the criteria established. Individuals or groups conveying the scholarship shall be invited to present the scholarship to the selected student(s) at the appropriate awards event.

Physical memorials are not encouraged.