



BURGETTSTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

100 Bavington Road, Burgettstown, PA 15021-2730

Admin: (724) 947-8136 – MS/HS: (724) 947-8100 – Elem: (724) 947-8150

Admin Fax: (724) 947-8143 – HS Fax: (724) 947-3325

Mr. Stephen P. Puskar **Superintendent**

August 1, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with heartfelt sympathy and deepest condolences to the family of Gunner McMillan, a student at Burgettstown Area Elementary Center, that we write to inform you of his unexpected passing last evening. Gunner was a student in Mrs. Baker's kindergarten classroom during the 2022-2023 school year, and was a friend to many.

With this loss occurring during the summer break, it is important that we reach out and let you know that though school is not in session, our support services are available.

A student death is a sensitive issue and we want to handle it as such. Sudden death is always painful, and difficult to understand. Your child may experience a wide range of emotions as they deal with the loss of a classmate. The school district has mobilized a team of individuals to help students work through their grief, if needed, in the days ahead. Members of our school counseling team, our district-wide social worker, and a counselor from Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services (SPHS) will be available to meet, in-person, as follows:

- Wednesday, August 2
 - 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
 - Burgettstown Area Elementary Center
 - No appointment necessary
- Thursday, August 3
 - 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
 - Burgettstown Area Elementary Center
 - No appointment necessary

Additionally, the grieving process is different for everyone, and one may not be able to predict when assistance is needed. Therefore we wish to inform you that grief counselors from SPHS are available by phone, 24/7, every day at 1-877-225-3567.

The communities that comprise the Burgettstown Area School District come together in ways only small towns seem to in good times and in bad. There is a special bond between all, and when a tragedy strikes one, it hits home for all. We encourage everyone to embrace the emotions that may occur over the next several days and weeks, and to seek assistance if necessary. Gunner was a special boy, and as a member of the Class of 2035, will be missed.