



ASHLAND CITY SCHOOLS

Ashland High School ● 1440 King Road ● Ashland, Ohio 44805 ● 419-289-7968 ● FAX 419-289-8218

December 9, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is with deep sadness that we write to you regarding a recent loss to our school community. This past weekend, Tom Carver, a longtime Ashland Arrows basketball coach and teacher at Black River passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Coach Carver made a positive impact on the lives of everyone he worked with and will be sorely missed. Our hearts go out to his family, players, and the Black River community as they mourn his loss.

As we work through this difficult news, members of the Ashland County Youth Crisis Response Team were made available to our basketball team and our students. This group consists of professionals trained to help with the needs of students, parents, and school personnel at difficult times such as this. At AHS, we also have school counselors and school liaisons available for any student who may need or want help with issues surrounding this loss. We encourage you, as parents, to feel free to call as well if you have any concerns.

The loss of a member of our school community is a traumatic event, and it is normal for students to experience intense emotions as they process their loss. Sometimes the emotional reactions appear immediately after the traumatic event, and other times the impact may appear hours, days, and in some cases weeks or months later. The understanding and support of loved ones usually helps these reactions pass more quickly. However, sometimes professional assistance is necessary. This does not imply weakness. It simply means that the emotions were too powerful for the person to manage alone. Below are some numbers you may find helpful if professional outside counseling is needed.

Appleseed Mental Health Center	419-281-3716
Appleseed Crisis Line	419-289-6111 or 888-400-8500
Catholic Charities	419-289-1903
Cornerstone Counseling	419-289-1876
Encompass Christian Counseling	419-207-0970
Ground Work Play Therapy	419-289-4825

Information on how to help your child deal with grief and loss is available on our website. If you would like additional information or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school at (419) 289-7968.

Sincerely,

Josh Packard
Principal
Ashland High School