Lory's Place

Dear Parents or Guardians,

To better meet the needs of our students, our school is pleased to offer a support group for students who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, grandparent, other family member, friend or other significant person in their lives. The loss does not have to be recent for a student to benefit from the group; the death might have occurred long ago, but the student hasn't yet worked through all their feelings about the death. The group provides grief support and education. Fun, age-appropriate activities provide participants, from kindergarten through 12th grade, with a safe environment in which to explore the many feelings and experiences of grief. Please understand a peer grief support group model may not be best suited for everyone.

Grief support can help all of us better understand the feelings and changes brought about by a death. Studies suggest that extra support following a loss can help students function better at home and school and gives them a special place for healing. The grief support group at our school will be facilitated by staff from Lory's Place, a Grief Healing and Education Center for Children and Families, located in St. Joseph. Lory's Place is committed to children, teens and adults who are grieving and provides support, tools and resources, so the healing process can begin. The group will meet for one class period, once a month. All students attending will be expected to keep up with their schoolwork. We will work around any test dates so as not to interfere with their academic schedule.

After discussing this opportunity with your child/teen, please share your permission with Mrs. DeMercado (Coloma Elementary School Social Worker) or Miss Nimtz (Coloma Intermediate School Social Worker). Upon receiving permission, the staff of Lory's Place and school personnel will discuss group membership. We will be following your school's safety guidelines to ensure best practices. Please feel free to call Mrs. DeMercado, Miss Nimtz, or contact Lory's Place, at 269-983-2707, for more information.

Caring together,

Nicole G. DeMercado, LMSW-clinical
School Social Worker
Coloma Elementary
Phone 269-468-2420
Fax 269-468-2434

Kelsey Nimtz, LMSW-clinical
School Social Worker
Coloma Intermediate
Phone 269-468-2415
Fax 269-468-2429