



## The Gloucester Public Schools

Ben Lummis  
Superintendent  
2 Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
Phone: 978-281-9800

April 5, 2021

Dear Gloucester Parents and Guardians,

It is with profound sadness that I share news with our community that Olivia Pike, a Gloucester High School student, passed away over the weekend.

At Gloucester High School, we have implemented a plan for responding to this tragic event focused on helping our students who need additional support and, at the same time, providing a sense of normalcy and routine. Our high school's Crisis Intervention Team worked with Riverside Trauma Center over the weekend to help set up support for Gloucester High students and staff, and guide our communication to families. On Saturday, administration and support professionals provided an immediate crisis response for the students and staff most acutely and immediately affected by Olivia's passing. Today and throughout this week, the high school will have counselors available for any student or staff member who needs support.

A student death is a difficult and challenging situation that may generate anxiety and distress in some students. Children and teens will have a wide range of reactions to the news of the death of a local student. Your child may hear about this news at school, from friends, or through social media. Please know that our counselors at all of our schools are prepared to offer support to any student who needs some extra attention.

If your child is aware of the student's death and wants to talk about it, please take the time to listen.

- Assure your child that the death of a young person is rare and that as a family and a community we will do everything possible to keep them safe
- Reassure your child that sadness, anger, fear, guilt, confusion, and other feelings are all normal and okay when someone dies
- Express your own feelings in an open, calm, and appropriate way that encourages your child to share their feelings and concerns.
- If you think your child needs additional support the best thing to do is contact your school counselor or principal, and we can help you find support

Below is a short list of resources that may be of help to you or your family while our community goes through this difficult time.

On behalf of all members of our staff, our deepest condolences are with Olivia's family and friends during this difficult time. While our school community is saddened and shaken by this news, I know Gloucester to be a resilient, caring, and supportive community that will support this family and their loved ones.

Sincerely,

Ben Lummis  
Superintendent



## The Gloucester Public Schools

Ben Lummis  
Superintendent  
2 Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
Phone: 978-281-9800

---

### Resources to Support Families & Children

- *Talking with Your Children about Traumatic Events (Riverside Trauma Center)*  
<http://riversidetraumacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Talking-with-Your-Children-about-Traumatic-Events.pdf>
- *A Guide for Teens on Grieving and Loss*  
[https://www.dougy.org/assets/uploads/Tips\\_for\\_Grieving\\_Teens.pdf](https://www.dougy.org/assets/uploads/Tips_for_Grieving_Teens.pdf)
- *A Guide for Supporting Your Child after the Death of a Friend*  
[https://grievingstudents.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/192907L\\_2-19-Supporting-Your-Child\\_CHLA.pdf](https://grievingstudents.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/192907L_2-19-Supporting-Your-Child_CHLA.pdf)
- *Una Guía para Apoyar a Su Hijo después de la Muerte de una Amiga*  
[https://grievingstudents.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Supporting-Your-Child-Spanish\\_CHLA-.pdf](https://grievingstudents.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Supporting-Your-Child-Spanish_CHLA-.pdf)
- *A Guide for Families to help Grieving Children and Teens:*  
<https://www.caredimensions.org/userfiles/files/Brochures%20and%20booklets/ChildrenTeensandGrief-Booklet.pdf>