



## David Douglas School District

*Learn · Grow · Thrive*

DAVID DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL

John Bier, *Principal* | 1001 SE 135th Ave., Portland, Oregon 97233-1924 | Phone 503-261-8300 | Fax 503-261-8399

March 14, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This morning David Douglas High School received the sad news that a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student, Jade' Yates, died. No details are available at this time regarding the circumstances of her death.

In second period today we told our students about Jade's death. We gave students a chance to talk about how they were feeling. Those students who needed extra time were given the chance to talk with trained staff and counselors throughout the day.

When a young adult dies it touches us all in many ways. As adults, we struggle with our own feelings along with trying to know what we can do or say to make a time like this easier for our children. Some things you can do for your child are:

- Be sensitive to them needing or wanting to talk.
- Bring it up in case he or she is reluctant to do so.
- Ask about how your child is feeling and accept those feelings as stated. Resist the impulse to minimize the pain or deny the feelings or give advice. Just listen.
- Realize that kids move in and out of the grief process, but it is very intense for them when they are experiencing the sadness/anxiety/fear.
- Remember the importance of humor, laughter and joking.

If you have any questions or think that your child needs some extra support at this time, please feel free to contact our counseling department at 503-261-8348.

Sincerely,

John Bier  
Principal