

March 5, 2010

Dear Johnston Family,

I am writing to tell you about a tragedy that occurred involving a Johnston Middle School student. Wednesday night, Alexis, a seventh grader, was off campus with her mother and was involved in a road-rage incident during which she suffered a gunshot wound. She was hospitalized but unfortunately did not make it through the day on Thursday. Everyone here at school is devastated by this loss. I have been in contact with her family and let them know that the Johnston community's thoughts and prayers are with them.

As you can imagine, news of this terrible tragedy has struck our school family hard. Many of our students are devastated, some because they knew her, and others because they don't understand this senseless act of violence. We are doing everything we can to provide counseling to our students here at school. Crisis counselors were dispatched to our school today, and they will be here for the next few days.

As a father, this tragedy has hit close to my heart. I am asking that you spend some time this evening talking to your child and listening to them. The most important advice we have been given by counseling professionals is that we listen to our children in this time of need.

I have seen an outpouring of love and grief today. Our students and staff have made cards to show support for her family. We will take those to her family, and we hope they provide comfort to their grieving hearts.

Please know that we are doing everything that we can to support our students in this difficult time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 713.726.3616.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave D. Wheat". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dave D. Wheat
Principal