

March 5, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing you today with the sad news that we have lost another member of our Chesapeake High School family. Brandon Mason, a junior at our school who also attended classes at the Center of Applied Technology – North, died unexpectedly Saturday.

Brandon was popular with students and his teachers, and he enjoyed spending time with his family and helping others. Outside of school, he volunteered as a firefighter at the Orchard Beach station. He enjoyed fixing things and working with his hands. At CAT-North, he was a Level II student in the Network Systems Administration class.

Students and staff members were informed of Brandon's death this morning, though some had already heard of it over the weekend. Our school system brought in additional counselors from other schools and central office this morning to assist any students or staff members who felt the need to talk about their feelings. We will continue to make counselors available for as long as necessary.

I encourage you to talk openly with your child about this sad event, and to help them understand that it's OK not to have answers to every question. Children learn how to deal with grief by watching adults deal with grief. Please do not be afraid to express your emotions in front of your children. Healthy outlets of emotions can be a valuable lesson for them.

Plans for services for Brandon are incomplete at this time. When we know the details, we will have them available in the office. Please check back later in the week if you are interested in this information.

Death is never an easy thing with which to cope, but when it comes so suddenly and to someone so young, it is even tougher. As has been the case in the past, I know that our school and our community will rally together to help each other and the Mason family in this difficult time. We have reached out to the Mason family and offered whatever resources we can provide, and I know you will be there for them as well.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 410-255-9600 if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Frank Drazan
Principal

FD/bm