

May 20, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to you today to let you know that we have lost a member of our Annapolis High School family. Hannah LeBlanc, a student teacher who had spent the entire year with our students as part of her University of Maryland program, was killed in an automobile accident in Boston last night.

Though Ms. LeBlanc had been with our school only since August, she was very popular not only among the math students she taught but among our entire student body and faculty. Ms. LeBlanc had an ability to see the positive in every person she met, and quickly came to love our school, staff, and students. She absolutely loved what she did here, and often arrived early and stayed late because she was so dedicated and passionate about what she was doing. She was here just a short time, but made an enormous impact on us all.

Students were informed of Ms. LeBlanc's death today, and our school made counselors available to assist any student or staff member who had a need to discuss their feelings. We will continue to make counselors available for as long as necessary.

We have been in contact with Ms. LeBlanc's family and offered whatever resources we can provide, and I know you will keep them in your thoughts and prayers in the difficult days ahead.

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.

Death is never an easy thing with which to cope, but when it comes so suddenly and to someone so young. I know that our school and our community will rally together to help each other and continue to pray for the LeBlanc family in this difficult time.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Sincerely,

Don Lilley  
Principal

DL/bm