



Dear School District of Washington Families:

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Peyton Baumgarth, an eighth grade student at Washington Middle School. We have been informed by his family that he passed away due to complications of COVID-19 over the weekend. Peyton's last day of attendance was Thursday, October 22. We were informed he was quarantined on Monday, October 26. Later his family shared that he eventually began experiencing symptoms that required hospitalization but he did not improve.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and ask that the public respects their privacy. His family deserves nothing less. The family also asks that we all remember to wear masks, wash hands frequently and follow guidelines. COVID-19 is real and they want to remind students and parents to take these precautions in and outside of school. Because we know this will impact our school community emotionally, we encourage you to be especially sensitive and prepare to offer support to your child(ren) during this difficult time.

Please know that we will have additional counselors available on Wednesday when students return to the middle school. The school administration and counseling staff will be working to provide the most appropriate support to the family, student body, and the entire staff. Should you have questions as to how to help your child(ren), please contact a teacher, counselor or administrator.

Keep this family in your thoughts and prayers,

Dr. Lori VanLeer
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