

## **SUICIDE OF STUDENT #1**

(Date)

Dear Parent or Guardian:

You may have been informed by your son or daughter that a (school name) student took (his/her) own life last night. Whenever we experience a tragedy like this, we are left with the responsibility to find an appropriate response. As a school, we have made every effort to respond to the needs of all of our students.

The (school name) family, staff, and students alike, came together during this crisis and responded to the situation with caring, concern, and attention to the needs of one another. We can be proud of the ways in which our students have rallied to be supportive of each other. I have attached a list of things that all parents should be aware of if and when their child is experiencing grief about death of someone they know. Included are signs that the student isn't coping well. (list from counseling?)

Even though we often deal with students who are depressed, an event like this one heightens our awareness of how much at risk some of our students really are. Certain factors place students at greater risk for suicide. There are specific signals that we, as parents and educators, can look for when a young person is under stress and appears to be having difficulty coping. I have included an attachment about this with this letter. (attach signs of depression from local crisis line/mental health agency)

The (school name) staff as a whole is doing everything possible to respond to this crisis. All of the counselors deal with these issues with students, both individually and in groups. Please feel free to call any of our counselors with your questions or concerns at (phone number). You may also reach administrators by calling (phone number). Your child's counselor also can direct you, if needed, to other resources in the community. Because we are starting winter break, it may also be helpful to know the Crisis Line (number).

Thank you for your support,

(Principal name)  
Principal