

Walton Central School District

Roger Clough, Superintendent of Schools



District Office
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Walton, NY 13856
(607) 865-4116

Corey Phraner
District Clerk

January 9, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with profound sadness that I write this letter to our Walton community. This morning, one of our 12th grade students had a medical emergency in the hallway and later died.

Our sincere condolences and thoughts go out to her family and friends.

A student death is a difficult and challenging situation that can generate a high level of anxiety and distress in some students. During this time, as the school community processes the tragic news and copes with grief, we will offer counseling and bereavement support services to all of our students and staff. A team of counselors, school psychologists and trained staff at the middle school and high school will provide support to any students or staff members in need throughout the upcoming days.

Your child may be affected by this tragedy even if he or she did not know the student. I encourage you to talk with your child about what has happened. Discussing thoughts and feelings about this situation is important in helping your child work through his or her grief. The Child Mind Institute has an excellent resource to help <https://childmind.org/article/helping-children-deal-grief/>. I hope that you find it useful.

If you feel your child needs to speak with a guidance counselor, teacher or other adult, please contact the Guidance Department or Administration.

This is a difficult time for all of us, but I know that our students, staff and community will draw together to work through this tragedy together. Please feel free to contact me if there is any way in which I may be of help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger B. Clough II". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roger B. Clough II
Superintendent of Schools

RBC:scp