



June 4, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff:

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Ms. Anika Browne, special education teacher at the Blair G. Ewing Center. Details around her passing have been reported by the Prince George's Police Department and through various news outlets.

Ms. Browne was a valued staff member who loved interacting with students. She cared deeply about the children and staff with whom she worked. Ms. Browne was firm, yet loving as she worked to ensure the safety and well-being of her students. She greeted staff and students with a smile and always had a secret stash of goodies to keep everyone motivated.

We recognize that students may be affected by her death. Supports will be made available to all students and staff by the school's Student Support Team. Students will have the opportunity to discuss and process their feelings; however, participation in these activities is voluntary. Staff will be available as needed to help students process their emotions.

At home, please pay close attention to your child's emotional needs during the next few weeks, particularly if your child was close to Ms. Browne.

- Make yourself available for your child and encourage them to discuss their feelings.
- Look for signs of distress, such as: irritability, anger, difficulty focusing, and regression (bed wetting, nightmares).
- While it is normal and expected to experience grief, take note and intervene if these responses are prolonged or extreme. Watch for signs of ongoing difficulty, such as prolonged sadness, withdrawal, or changes in eating or sleeping habits.
- Watch for any behaviors that are unusual for your child.
- These signs may indicate that your child needs additional supports.

Student Support Staff available within the Blair G. Ewing Center is as follows:

Lead Office:

Mr. Mangiacapra, School Psychologist

Albert_R_Mangiacapra@mcpsmd.org

Ms. Cotman, PPW

Latisha_Cotman@mcpsmd.org

Dr. Margaret Kim, School Psychologist

Margaret_J_Kim@mcpsmd.org

Avery Road:

Dana Henderson, School Counselor

Dana_N_henderson@mcpsmd.org

Stephanie Avinger, School Social Worker

Stephanie_D_Avinger@mcpsmd.org

Cloverleaf:

Ms. Mathis, School Counselor

Treasure_L_Mathis@mcpsmd.org

Ms. Tanisha Sanders, School Counselor

Tanisha_Sanders@mcpsmd.org

Plum Orchard:
Ms. Vanlennep, Social Worker
Tanisha Wright, School Counselor

Karenina_Vanlennep@mcpsmd.org
Tanisha_r_wright@mcpsmd.org

For additional supports within the community, please contact the Montgomery County Crisis Center at 240-777-4000 or in person at 1301 Piccard Drive in Rockville. The Crisis Center team is available 24 hours per day and no appointment is necessary.

Please join me in extending our deepest sympathy to Ms. Browne's family. When we receive additional information regarding funeral arrangements or other ways to support, I will be sure to share this information with you. If you have any questions please contact the main office at 301-279-4920.

Sincerely,

Damien B. Ingram
Principal