



June 22, 2021

Dear Parents:

Another shooting in our beautiful Colorado for which we need to help our children process. The Arvada community is experiencing the death of a well-loved SRO and a bystander. How can we best help our children and community through this tragedy?

First, we need to address the shock and grief children too will feel. Those that knew Officer Beesley may be especially hard hit. Reading of the care he had for students, even accompanying some on their bike rides to school in the morning, made him a trusted adult in many students' lives. We cannot explain why these things happen and we need to be honest with our children about that.

Depending on our children's developmental level and personality, some may regress needing more support from family. Other youth may act out as a way to express their feelings. All children may need reassurance that whatever their feelings, they are all "normal." Trust that most students will return to baseline within the next few weeks. Encourage children to express all they are feeling and to ask questions.

It is natural for people to want to grieve in the community in which they knew the person they are grieving. If the JeffCo Public Schools offers support for students, especially those from Oberon Middle School, parents may want to take advantage of those opportunities for their children. The homepage of the JeffCo Public Schools website also has links to resources for both students and parents.

Helping students and community members find appropriate ways to support the victims' families can be beneficial to all. While continuing to reassure and answer questions, returning to normal activities and schedules will be helpful too.

Please see the links to other resources for parents and educators on this webpage.

Let's all take care of each other and ourselves,

Chris Harms

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