



ASHLAND CITY SCHOOLS

Ashland High School ● 1440 King Road ● Ashland, Ohio 44805 ● 419-289-7968 ● FAX 419-289-8218

October 4th, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is with deep sadness that we write to you regarding a recent loss to our school community. On the evening of October 3rd, Andre Harrison, a senior student at Ashland High School, passed away unexpectedly. Our hearts go out to Andre's family as they mourn his loss.

On October 4th, members of the Ashland County Youth Crisis Response Team were made available to our students. This group consists of professionals trained to help with the needs of students, parents, and school personnel at difficult times such as this. At AHS, we also have school counselors and a school liaison available for any student who may need or want help with issues surrounding this loss. We encourage you, as parents, to feel free to call if you have any concerns. This loss, combined with the loss of a Mapleton student this past weekend, is a difficult burden for our students to process.

The loss of a classmate is a traumatic event, and it is normal for students to experience intense emotions as they process their loss. Sometimes the emotional reactions appear immediately after the traumatic event, and other times the impact may appear hours, days, and in some cases weeks or months later. The understanding and support of loved ones usually helps these reactions pass more quickly. However, sometimes professional assistance is necessary. This does not imply weakness. It simply means that the emotions were too powerful for the person to manage alone. Below are some numbers you may find helpful if professional outside counseling is needed.

Appleseed Mental Health Center	419-281-3716
Appleseed Crisis Line	419-289-6111
Catholic Charities	419-289-1903
Cornerstone Counseling	419-289-1876
Encompass Christian Counseling	419-289-0970
Ground Work Play Therapy	419-289-4825
National Crisis Hotline	988

Information on how to help your child deal with grief and loss is available on our high school website. If you would like additional information or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school at (419) -289-7968.

Sincerely,

Josh Packard
Principal
Ashland High School