



February 5, 2020

Dear Sherwood Park Parent/Guardian(s):

I am writing to inform you of some sad and tragic news. At 12:30 this morning, the Grand Rapids Fire Department responded to a house fire in the 2900 block of Dawes Ave. SE. When the Fire Department arrived on the scene, it was discovered that multiple people were trapped in the house, three of whom were Grand Rapids Public Schools students and one was their mother.

Grand Rapids Public Schools Department of Public Safety was informed today that the mother and students have passed away from sustained injuries. One of the victims was a student at Sherwood Park, one was a former Sherwood student, and the other was a former C.A. Frost student. Out of respect for the family's privacy, we are not releasing the name of the parent or students at this time.

When an unexpected death occurs, there are always several emotions and feelings we can expect to see in our students. They include anger, guilt, confusion, fear, blame, disbelief, and even indifference. These are normal reactions, and students may experience several of them over the weeks to come. We need to give them permission to feel whatever emotion they have and support them as they go through the grieving process. Our crisis team has been made available for staff and students who may need extra support.

Our thoughts and deepest condolences go out to the family and friends affected by this tragedy. If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 819-3095 or email RossS@grps.org.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Ross
Principal

