



WALL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
P.O. Box 1199 • 18th Avenue
Wall, NJ 07719

May 5, 2024

Dear Wall Township Community,

Our community recently learned that Laila Orjuela, one of our eighth-grade students, died unexpectedly over the weekend. On behalf of the school community, we know you will join us in sending thoughts of support and condolences to the family and friends.

When situations of this nature occur, the District has a comprehensive plan in place to help meet the needs of our students, faculty, and staff with safe and supportive measures. Members of the school and district teams have been trained in the most developmentally appropriate ways to assist your child. These services available to those in need include group and individualized supportive sessions with school counselors and community resources. If you have any immediate concerns about your child, we ask that you do not hesitate to contact the school directly.

The next days will be challenging. You and your child may be saddened and confused by information that will invariably surface online or in the community. To support you as you navigate difficult questions or overwhelming emotions with your child, we highlighted below some helpful information.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- [Monmouth County Mental Health Services](#)
- [Youth Helpline: 2nd Floor](#)
- [NJ Hopeline](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- [How to Talk to Children About Difficult News](#)
- [How to Talk With Kids About Tragedies & Other Traumatic News Events](#)
- [Building your Resilience](#)

As mentioned in yesterday's communication, counselors will be available today from 12:00- 2:00 at the Wall Municipal Building on 2700 Allaire Road.

We invite you to visit the [Student Wellness page](#) on our [district website](#) for more resources. We hope that through our unified efforts, we will continue to persevere and demonstrate our strength and commitment to the Wall community.

Sincerely,

Tracy Handerhan
Superintendent of Schools

Tiffany A. Steiner
Director of Intervention Services and Student Wellness