



**Olga Hugelmeyer**  
Superintendent of Schools

March 30, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of Elizabeth Public Schools, I am deeply saddened to share that one of our teachers from our school community at Benjamin Franklin School No. 13 has passed away after a sudden and brief illness.

We join the family, friends, colleagues and students in grieving this tragic loss. Joel Orgella was an outstanding teacher who cared very deeply about the success and wellbeing of each and every one of his students. We will recognize Mr. Orgella's long career and many contributions to our school community at a future date when we are all able to gather.

Our condolences to Joel Orgella's wife, Elizabeth Orgella who is also a part of our school district family as a teacher at Dr. Antonia Pantoja, School No. 27. May God bless each of them and our entire community.

In order to support our team members and students during this difficult time, we have arranged to have grief counselors available to our school community remotely throughout the week.

Sincerely,

**Olga Hugelmeyer**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Office of the Superintendent of Schools**