



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

April 18, 2023

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Learning Community,

On behalf of Elizabeth Public Schools, I am deeply saddened to share that a student of Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 has passed away suddenly after a brief illness.

She was a wonderful young lady who was beloved by her family and friends both inside and outside of School No. 28 and her loss will be felt throughout the entire Elizabeth Public Schools community.

We understand that many adults and students may have intense feelings and may experience a wide range of emotions including questions about the loss of their friend and peer. News of such a loss affects our entire community, especially our children. This loss is sure to raise many emotions, concerns, and questions for our entire school community, especially our students.

Our school and district-level crisis teams, made up of professionals trained to help with the needs of students, parents, and team members, are here to provide their support during a difficult time such as this. Grief counseling has been made available at School No. 28 for any students and team members who may need assistance surrounding this loss. We encourage parents who are affected by this loss to also use our resources. You may also find the following information helpful from the Traumatic Loss Coalition: <https://ubchc.rutgers.edu/tlc/>

If you would like additional information or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact your School Crisis Team at 908-436-3950 or Dawn Di Nardo-Lippi, District Social Worker at 908-436-5239.

We are saddened by the loss to our school community and will make every effort to help you and your child as you need. We offer our thoughts and prayers to her family and friends as they endure this tremendous loss and may they find peace during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Olga Hugelmeyer

Office of the Superintendent of Schools