Dear Victoria High School Families,

Unfortunately I have some sad news to share with you today.

On Tuesday December 27th Grade 9 student Rembrandt Javier died after dealing with a long term chronic health condition.  Rembrandt and his brother Ryker in Grade 11 joined our Vic High community recently and Rembrandt was beginning to make relationships with his classmates and teachers alike. His family has given us permission to share this news with you and let those who knew him know that his Memorial Service will be 1pm tomorrow at St. Joseph’s the Worker Church in Saanich.  We mourn the loss of this young man along with his family.

We would ask that you inform your child of this news so that we can support those who were connected with Rembrandt or his brother when school resumes on Tuesday.

We will also be sharing this news with classes in the morning just in case families do not receive this email due to the holidays.

The District Critical Incident Support team was at our school on Tuesday to support our students and staff. A quiet space was staffed by caring adults for any students needed more time to talk and process this news. Counseling and administrators are also available in the days to come.

It is not unusual for students to experience strong feelings when hearing such news such as sadness, grief, fear, loss.  If you notice that your child needs support in the coming days, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Administration or Counseling Department. Attached is a document that you could refer to in speaking to your child about this.   Below is a list of additional community supports that you could also access.

Resource List for Additional Supports Victoria Hospice Grief resources and counselling:

<https://victoriahospice.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/VH-ChildrenTeenGrief.pdf>

[https://victoriahospice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VH-BereaveBroch2-Community-1909- proof2.pdf](https://victoriahospice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VH-BereaveBroch2-Community-1909-%20proof2.pdf)

Learning through Loss is available to offer counselling support to the other children in the home. If you would like more information, please call: 250-413-3114

B.C. Bereavement Helpline: 1-877-779-2223 Vancouver Island Crisis Line: 1-888-494-3888

Here to Help BC 310-6789 Online Service for Adults • [www.CrisisCentreChat.ca](http://www.CrisisCentreChat.ca)

<https://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/sites/default/files/2019-03/suicide_loss_toolkit_eng.pdf>

Take care,