



Covington Community School Corporation

“Home of the Trojans”

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For Immediate Release

Covington Community Schools is deeply saddened by the tragic loss of fellow Trojan Terry Badger. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. We must also acknowledge that this is a tragedy that impacts our entire community. Grief counselors remain available at Covington Middle School for students, staff and community members, and resources have been shared with parents to support all students in these very difficult conversations with their children. We encourage our families to reach out to us for whatever help and support our staff can provide.

We work diligently in all our schools throughout the year to provide training, guidance and support to our staff and students in bullying detection and prevention. Our highest priority is to create an environment where students feel safe. They are encouraged and empowered to report any concerns for their health or safety to a trusted adult and/or our bullying tip lines, available on each school's website. ANY health or safety concern and ALL allegations of bullying or harm are taken seriously and investigated immediately.

The gravity of this tragic event compels us to move forward immediately with an investigation from knowledgeable professionals not associated with our school corporation. We pledge to be as transparent with the results as the law will allow. It is incumbent upon Covington Community Schools to protect the privacy of our students and staff, so please understand that some details the community might want simply cannot be shared. We will provide what information we are legally able to offer.

Data tells us that many of our nation's children are in a mental health crisis. That fact has become painfully clear in our small community. As a community, we must come together to provide the support our young people need to thrive. Anticipate discussions regarding future efforts to coordinate community services and education to make sure this never happens here again. Be prepared to step up and join us in this effort.

This young man's death is a tragedy beyond comprehension and profoundly impacts the entire community. Covington Community Schools is invested in doing whatever we can to help our families, our students, our staff – and our community - navigate the challenges of healing.