

Center Moriches Union Free School District

BOARD OF EDUCATION
George Maxwell, *President*
Danielle Dench, *Vice President*
Marcus Babzien
Joshua P. Foster
Thomas Kelly

Patricia A. Galietta
District Clerk
Diane M. Smith
Treasurer

529 Main Street
Center Moriches, New York 11934
(631) 878-0052
Fax (631) 878-4326
www.cmschools.org

Dr. Ronald M. Masera
Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Raina Ingoglia
*Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum,
Instruction, Data Coordination and
Buildings and Grounds*
Mr. Ricardo Soto
*Assistant Superintendent for Student Services,
Personnel and Instructional Technology*
Ms. Keri Loughlin
Assistant Superintendent for Business

August 14, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with profound sadness that I share with you some devastating news regarding one of our Center Moriches HS students. We were informed by the Pesantez family that last evening their daughter Stephanie passed away. Stephanie was set to begin her 10th grade year at Center Moriches High School this fall. Tragically, her young life was cut short after she was struck by a vehicle while riding her bicycle Monday morning. I know the entire Center Moriches community joins me in expressing our heartfelt condolences to the entire Pesantez family.

There is no right or wrong way for students to react to the death of a classmate. Everyone that knew Stephanie may respond to this news differently. This kind of loss is unimaginable and we want to do all we can to support the Pesantez family and Stephanie's friends. Tomorrow, Thursday, August 15, a bereavement center is being established at the secondary complex from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Members of our District Mental Health Team will be available during this difficult time to speak with family, friends and staff. In addition, there are resources on the District website to assist parents in speaking to children about death and grieving.

As information regarding arrangements and any other community efforts (collections, etc.) become available, we will certainly share them. This is a tragic loss to the Pesantez family and the entire Center Moriches community. Stephanie and all those who loved her will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Regards,

Ronald M. Masera

Superintendent of Schools