

4. Plantings on school grounds, i.e. trees or gardens, will be considered by the School Board. The type and placement of the planting is subject to the approval of the School Board after receiving the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Maintenance Supervisor, and possibly borough officials. Maintenance and upkeep of the planting must be a component of consideration.

Memorials that do not involve property issues, such as yearbook memorials or newspaper tributes, should follow similar procedures. The building principal should review and approve all suggested memorials or tributes. The following suggested ideas for memorials should be shared with the family of the deceased for their consideration:

1. A memorial scholarship or award with guidelines approved by the principal.
2. Purchase of library books, technology materials, school supplies or athletic equipment, with the approval of the principal. Donated books or equipment may include a label with wording limited to "donated in memory of" and the deceased's name along with the name of the party donating the same.
3. Monetary funds designated to a particular school activity or department. The principal will approve the use of funds.
4. Make a monetary contribution to the school district's educational foundation (501c3 Plan).

Spontaneous Temporary Memorials/Expressions Following A Death

Tragic incidents or deaths may be observed by spontaneous expressions of grief, support, or sympathy for a victim. These expressions often have taken the form of banners, locker decorations, or gatherings. So that no human life is taken to be more or less important than others, the following is established:

1. In enforcing this policy, it is imperative that students and staff are treated in a sensitive manner and that the reasons for this policy are explained to students and their parents/guardians.
2. Since such expressions are indications that students feel the need to let out something they are feeling, individual or trained professionals should offer group sessions to appropriately address them.
3. Locker decorations should be limited to that of the victim's locker only. Principals should use discretion as to their appropriateness and when they are to be removed. Removal should take place within 2 to 3 days after a timely memorial service. Students and staff will be notified in advance when the

removal will take place. Remnants of the memorial shall be offered to the family of the deceased, otherwise, discreet, proper disposal shall take place.

4. Spontaneous gatherings without the presence of an appropriate adult should be discouraged.
5. Formal observances should give the family final consideration in decision-making.
6. The district will not permit services to be held in school buildings or on school property without prior approval by the School Board.

Memorials at Graduation

The death of a student is a difficult and tragic event for students, faculty, and family members. There may be instances where family may request recognition for the deceased student upon their class's graduation. The following shall apply:

1. Only students who were deceased within one calendar year of their anticipated graduation date should be recognized at the graduation ceremony.
2. Recognition will be limited to the reading of the deceased student's name as part of the normal recognition of all graduating students. When the deceased student's name is read, a brief pause for reflection will be allowed in that part of the program.
3. Guests or family members will not be permitted on stage to receive a diploma on behalf of a deceased student. A diploma will only be granted to the family of a deceased student who had the credit standing of a senior student.

Unacceptable Memorials

The following types of memorials are seen as inappropriate:

1. Memorials that alter the conduct of a regular school instructional day or school activities.
2. Those that require the discontinued use or retirement of school property. However, in selected situations the retirement of athletic numbers may be permitted.
3. Those which violate the United States or Pennsylvania constitution, laws, regulations or ordinances.

4. Those which require the use of public funds for purchase, development, or maintenance.
5. Memorials to those who have committed suicide or those that glamorize the method of death.
6. Memorials to those who have committed a serious form of illegal behavior.
7. Memorials consisting of the display of personal property other than approved plantings. (including portraits, photographs of the deceased, or other items intended for display in the school buildings memorializing deceased individuals)
8. Buildings, rooms, athletic fields named for deceased individuals.