

**From:** [Cohn, Gary](#)  
**To:** [EPS.MailList](#)  
**Subject:** Loss of a student  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 2, 2018 6:08:35 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Good morning.

I'm sorry to have to share with you that yesterday we received very sad news of the death of an Evergreen Middle School seventh grade student. Her name was Summer Dolman. Summer was an amazing artist who loved to swim and was an active member of the school's Rainbow Unity Club. Students were informed yesterday afternoon and our Crisis Response Team was on site to provide support for those needing assistance.

In addition, yesterday afternoon Principal Christine Avery sent the message below to Evergreen families. District administrators continue to work closely with Evergreen school staff to help support their school community. We know the tremendous impact the loss of a student has on a school. Thank you to the Evergreen staff for their courage and compassion helping students and families deal with this tragic loss.

Thank you for your continued support of one another, our students and our families.

Kindest regards,

Gary



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*Message from Evergreen Middle School Principal Christine Avery  
Tuesday, May 1, 2018*

Today, we shared the sad news that our student, Summer Dolman, passed away last night. Summer loved to swim, was an amazing artist, and an active member of our Rainbow Unity Club. We are working closely with the family and honoring their wishes in sharing information and any memorial information. Right now, we know the Celebration of Life will be Friday, May 18.

Our Crisis Response Team met this morning and counselors were on hand to provide extra support to students and staff members. We appreciate the support New Life Church and Grief Dog, Duke, provided to our students and staff. We also appreciate the many parents that picked up their student and brought them home to be supported by their families during this difficult time.

Losing a classmate can be overwhelming and difficult to process. You can help your child by simply talking and listening to them.

The following may be helpful as you talk with your child:

- Allow for your child to talk about feelings. If this is their first loss, then your child may not know how to respond and will be looking to you for guidance.
- Affirm all expressions. Tolerate the expressions rather than dismissing them or discouraging the expression of feelings.
- Encourage written expressions such as notes, letters, pictures to the family, etc. Your student may drop it off in the Main Office and we will deliver them to the family.
- Reaffirm that your child is safe and that your child is loved.
- Affirm that your child's reaction is normal and you understand the way your child feels.
- Watch for signs of trouble such as aggression, withdrawal, etc.
- Help our children return to a routine that is as normal as possible.

Our thoughts are with Summer's family and friends during this difficult time. Please call us at 425-385-5700 if we can be of additional assistance. Also, the Crisis Line number is 1-800-584-3578 or text START to 741-741. Finally, Sea Mar Community Health Centers can also provide child and family support; their main office number is 425-312-0277.