



P.O. Box 10
5608 Merle Hay Road
Johnston, IA 50131-0010
515-278-0470
www.johnston.k12.ia.us

January 30, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians of Johnston Students,

We have sad news to share regarding two of our Johnston Community School students. Ninth grade student, Cameron Carico, and 10th grade student, Spenser Nelson, passed away this weekend. Cameron died on Saturday and Spenser died on Sunday.

This is a very sad time for Cameron and Spenser's families, friends and classmates.

Cameron was the son of Brian and Dawn Carico and brother of Kate, a 7th grader at Summit Middle School. Brian is the principal at Johnston Middle School and Dawn is a reading teacher at Horizon Elementary. Spenser was the son of Tammy and Curt Nelson. Tammy is the secretary for the Athletic Director of Johnston Schools.

Teachers read a statement this morning informing students of Cameron and Spenser's deaths.

This is likely a difficult and confusing time for students. Therefore, individuals from the Des Moines Public School District and Iowa Health (the district's Student Assistance Program provider) have assisted the personnel of the Johnston Community School District in supporting students today and will continue to be available as needed. Students have been encouraged to reach out to family, friends and teachers for support and to express their feelings. We are also encouraging students to follow their normal schedule when possible.

As arrangements are released regarding visitation and funeral services, we will provide that information to students. If your student is experiencing difficulty outside of school hours, please feel free to contact Iowa Health Student Assistance Program at 515-263-4004. We will continue to provide more information as it becomes available. Please know that we care very deeply about your student. Feel free to contact the district office if you have any questions.

Clay Guthmiller
Superintendent of Johnston Community Schools