



Delivering Extraordinary Value to Families

**Steel Valley School District
District Administrative Offices**

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Munhall, PA 15120

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*Edward Wehrer
Superintendent*

November 26, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

With great sadness I must inform you that on Sunday, November 25, 2018, we learned that one of our High School Staff members, Mr. Randy Zirkle, had passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. Mr. Zirkle was a technology teacher at the High School, and he was extremely committed to his students. He had been a member of the Steel Valley School District since 2001.

Such a sudden loss can be traumatic and can have a profound effect on students and staff. This is a sensitive issue for adolescents/children, and we suggest that you talk with your child/children about their feelings. This letter will help you know what is happening in our school and where you may go for assistance for your child.

Here are some things that you may experience with your child/children. During a tragic situation, they may be more distracted or absent-minded than usual. Sleep and appetite may be disturbed. You may notice irritability, impatience or anger. Fear and anxiety are also common reactions. Give your child plenty of chances to talk with you about what has happened. Listening itself can be very helpful.

We will have counselors in our schools throughout the week to provide emotional support for our students and staff. If you have special counseling concerns or would like additional support for your child, please call your building principal or one of the agencies we are sharing with you.

On behalf of the Steel Valley School District, I want to thank you for your support as we work together in the aftermath of this tragic loss.

Sincerely,

Edward Wehrer
Superintendent

Local Counseling and Grief Support Agencies

Mon Yough

500 Walnut St.

2nd Floor

McKeesport, PA 15132

412-675-8430

- Mon Yough provides SAP services and School Based Therapy Services in the Steel Valley School District. They have scheduled intake appointments and walk in hours at their McKeesport office. Special arrangements can be made for intake appointments in your child's school if needed. Have the student's SSN and insurance information available when scheduling an intake appointment.

Steel Valley Wellness Group

1803 West Street

Homestead, PA 15120

412-368-3535

- Steel Valley Wellness Group provides behavioral and therapeutic supports for identified students in the Steel Valley School District. Their offices are local. Outpatient counseling services are available in their office by appointment.

Turtle Creek Valley

Child and Family Services, Community Counseling

723 Braddock Ave.

Braddock, PA 15104

412-351-0222

Highmark Caring Place

620 Stanwix Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

1-888-224-4673

RESOLVE Crisis Network

1-888-796-8226

24 hour assistance for mental health emergencies

Additional resources may be found on the Allegheny County Department of Human Services DHS Information & Referral Desk website at

www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/i-r.aspx

or by calling them at 412-350-6778.