



July 16, 2021

Dear Bergan Catholic School Families:

We have learned that Jace Knoell, a 4th grade student at Bergan Elementary, died on July 16, 2021, after a courageous battle with cancer. As a school family, we are feeling a great sense of loss, and we know that many students, families and staff members across the Bergan family will be greatly affected by his death.

A Crisis Response Team, which has been trained to deal with issues of grief and death, will be available to help students and staff deal with this tragedy. The Crisis Room at Bergan Elementary is located in the library and is accessible on Friday July 16 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm and on Saturday July 17 from Noon to 4:00pm.

*We do not have specific information on the funeral arrangements at this time. Please check the local newspaper and we will release this information as soon as we are notified of it. If your student plans to attend the funeral, we encourage you or another supportive adult to attend and to prepare him or her for what will take place.*

Students' reactions to death will vary according to their age, prior experiences with loss, their relationship with the deceased, and their individual personalities. The most important thing you can do as a parent is to be understanding of your child's initial expression of emotion, whether that is sadness, confusion, silence, withdrawal, anger or denial. It is healthy for young people to talk about their feelings with those they trust.

If you have special concerns about your son or daughter, please contact Dan Koenig ([dan.koenig@berganknights.org](mailto:dan.koenig@berganknights.org) 402-721-9683) or Lori McIntyre ([lori.mcintyre@berganknights.org](mailto:lori.mcintyre@berganknights.org) 402-721-9766).

We know that you share our sense of loss and sympathy for the family at this time.

Sincerely,

Dan Koenig  
Principal

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Rev. Walter Nolte, President • Dan Koenig, Principal • Chris Rainforth, Asst. Principal/Director of Activities

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