



ASHLAND CITY SCHOOLS

Reagan Elementary School × 750 Jackson Dr.. × Ashland, Ohio 44805 × 419-289-7967 × FAX 419-289-5671

August 31, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is with deep sadness that we write to you about a recent loss to our school family. Earlier today, we learned about the passing of one of our staff members, Becky Searl. Mrs. Searl was the executive secretary at Reagan Elementary, from the day the doors opened. She was a smiling face to meet and greet every student, parent, and staff member each day, she will be greatly missed.

We know that death and loss are difficult concepts for primary students and are sharing this information with you so that you can make the decision on how best to share it with your student. On Tuesday, August 31st, members of the Ashland County Youth Crisis Response Team were made available to our students and staff. This group consists of professionals trained to help with the needs of students, parents, and school personnel at difficult times such as this. At Reagan, we also have school mental health professionals available for any student who may need or want help with issues surrounding this loss. We encourage you, as parents, to feel free to call as well.

The loss of a staff member is a traumatic event, and it is normal for students to experience emotional aftershock as they deal with it, even if they did not interact with that staff member. Sometimes the emotional reactions appear immediately after the traumatic event, and other times the impact may appear hours, days, and in some cases weeks or months later. The understanding and support of loved ones usually helps these reactions pass more quickly. However, sometimes the traumatic event may be so painful that professional assistance is necessary. This does not imply weakness. It simply means that the particular event was too powerful for the person to manage alone. Below are some numbers you may find helpful if professional outside counseling is needed.

Appleseed Mental Health Center	419-281-7939
Appleseed Crisis Line	419-289-6111 or 888-400-8500
Cornerstone Counseling	419-289-1876

There is additional information on our website that may be useful to you in helping your child at home. The link to this resource is <https://bit.ly/griektipsforparents> and will also be linked through a news story on the Reagan website. If you would like additional information or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school at (419) -289-7967

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nicole Brodie
Principal
Reagan Elementary School