



LAMOILLE SOUTH SUPERVISORY UNION

46 Copley Avenue
Morrisville, VT 05661
(802) 888-4541

August 8, 2024

Dear Lamoille South Community,

Late last night, we were informed of a tragic accident involving one of our incoming Peoples Academy 9th grade students, Benjamin Clapp. This is heartbreaking news and will have a profound impact on our students, families, and staff. Ben was a bright light and connected with children and adults throughout all of our towns. Our hearts go out to his family during this very difficult time. Many will be impacted by this event and it is a time to lean on the power of our supportive tight-knit community. Below we have included resources to help navigate conversations with youth and peers.

We are available to address the many emotions, concerns, and questions that will arise over the coming days and weeks. Lamoille South has a School Crisis Team made up of professionals trained to help at difficult times such as this. There are many supports available for students, staff, and families. Those supports will include a time to connect **tomorrow (Friday) at 4:00 p.m.** at Peoples Academy. The gymnasium and library will be open and counselors will be available for anyone interested in speaking with a mental health professional. Lamoille County Mental Health will be partnering with us throughout this process. This is also a time to just be together for those that would like to connect.

Below are several resources that may be helpful for students and families navigating these discussions.

- **Mental Health Resources**

- For immediate support, you can go to Lamoille County Mental Health directly at 72 Harrel Street, Morrisville, or call 802-888-5026 to speak with the mobile crisis team
- Phone support - Call 988 to speak anonymously with a crisis clinician in Vermont
- Text Support - text VT to 741741

- **Parent / Caregiver Resources**

- **The Dougy Center:** <https://www.dougy.org/> - resources and tip sheets for children, teens, parents and educators
- **The National Child Traumatic Stress Network** - [Helping teens with traumatic grief](#)
- **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital** - [Helping your child cope with death](#)
- **Coalition to Support Grieving Students** - [Variety of resources and tips for parents and caregivers](#)

We thank you for your support and encourage you to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ryan Heraty, Superintendent