



PINE FORGE ACADEMY

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Letter to Parents: The Passing Away of A Teacher

August 10, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

One of our former Pine Forge Academy teachers, Mr. Melcher Monk, passed away on August 10, 2016 as a result of a medical condition. He was a wonderful teacher, loved by all his students and we will miss him greatly. His commitment to students and love for learning has touched us all in a remarkable way.

We encourage you to talk with your child. How we, as adults, manage ourselves, serves as an important model for helping young people cope with tragedies like this. It is important that they know they are loved and supported as they talk about their feelings. The Academy is preparing to make arrangements for faculty, staff and students to attend the funeral - if possible. An update is forthcoming.

You may want to consider the following when talking with your child:

- Allow for your child to talk about feelings. If this is the first loss your child has experienced, your child may not know how to respond and will be looking for your guidance.
- Affirm all expressions. It's okay to express feelings honestly. Tolerate the expressions rather than dismissing them or discouraging the expression of feelings.
- Encourage written expressions such as notes, letters, pictures to the family etc.
- Affirm that your child's reaction is normal and you understand the way the child feels.
- Remind the student that we serve a mighty Savior in whom the promise of eternal life is a gift that all may receive.

Our Guidance Counselor, Deans and Administrators will be available to be of emotional support for our students, faculty and staff. If you have special counseling concerns or would like additional support for your child, please contact Ms. Bonds at kbonds@pineforgeacademy.org.

Our deepest sympathies go to Mr. Monk's family. They are in our prayers, we ask you to uplift them before the Lord in your private time with Him as well.

Sincerely,

Nicole Hughes
Headmaster/Principal