To the school community:

A very sad thing happened today that I want to share with you.

(Give accurate information, using the word “suicide” for cause of death ***if discussed with and approved by the surviving family)***

Any person’s death is tragic. However, when that person’s death is a suicide, it is a different and greater tragedy. There can be many factors which would lead an individual to this course of action. We can never know exactly why [s/he] killed her[him]self.

We do know that we ask ourselves if there was not something we could have done or said. It appears that many individuals did care about him/her and reached out to him/herher in their own way. Depression is a curious and confusing state. Sometimes we can break through its shell and at other times no one can.

We will all miss (Name) – family, friends, students, and teachers. If nothing else, I hope we all realize that we must reach out to one another, to be friends, to listen, to help each other to understand that each one of us is important. As difficult as times may get, our lives have value and meaning. If any of us have thoughts of wanting to hurt/kill ourselves, **tell** someone. If we can do this, we can get help. There are people who know how to help and who care.

Counselors, teachers and other support personnel have been, and will continue to be available to students, teachers and parents on an ongoing basis. Please contact the counselor (name) or call the school office, (number) for assistance.

A community Support Night is planned for (date, time and place) for staff and parents.

At that time, we can talk further about how to help ourselves and our children with grief and suicide prevention.

Our thoughts are with the family and with each of you.

Sincerely,