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Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent

September 5, 2023

Dear DeKalb County School District Community,

It is with deep sadness and a heavy heart that I write to you today. The loss of three students from our community has left many of us feeling overwhelming grief. We send heartfelt condolences and support to the loved ones of those lost and strength to the survivors. May hope and healing prevail in the face of this tragedy.

In times of adversity, it is crucial for our district to unite and offer love and compassion to one another. We must remain united, drawing strength from our shared experiences and the bonds that connect us. Together, we can find solace and navigate through these trying times.

To the students and staff of Lakeside High School, please know that we are here for you. We understand that grief is a profoundly personal journey, and we are committed to providing the necessary support to help you heal. Throughout this week and beyond, our district will have trained professionals available for grief counseling and support services. We encourage you to reach out, share your feelings, and lean on the available resources.

In times like these, it is essential to hold onto hope and find comfort in unity. As Helen Keller once said, "*Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.*" Let us remember those words and come together as a community, offering words of positive thought and encouragement to one another. In our unity, we will find the strength to heal and support each other through this unimaginable loss.

As we navigate the days ahead, let us also remember the importance of self-care and compassion. Take the time you need to process your emotions and lean on your loved ones for support. Together, we will find a way to honor the memory of our lost students and ensure that their legacy lives on through our resilience and unity.

In closing, please remember that you are not alone. We stand beside you, ready to offer our love, support, and guidance. Lean on one another, reach out for help when needed, and believe in the power of unity to carry us through this tragic time.

With deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences,

Dr. Devon Q. Horton, *Superintendent*
DeKalb County School District