

Community Relations

Memorials for Deceased Students or Staff

Recognizing that the loss of a member of the school community is deeply felt, the Derby Public School District will support staff, students and families who feel the loss, and will assist with connections to appropriate community resources. As places designed primarily to support learning, school sites should not serve as the main venue for the memorializing of students or staff.

From time to time there may be a desire to honor a deceased student or employee of the District. Any individual or group wishing to honor a deceased member of the school community shall submit their request in writing to the building Principal who will consult with the family of the deceased. A recommendation shall be made to the full Board in a regularly scheduled meeting. Full Board approval is necessary for any plaque to be placed on school grounds.

It is strongly recommended that such memorials be in the form of a living memorial, such as a tree. This living memorial may be marked with a permanent plaque indicating the name of the person to be memorialized. Permanent memorials for deceased students or staff shall be limited in form to perpetual awards or scholarships, plantings, collections of books, or items of historical or educational significance. Memorials shall be limited to one per loss. Plantings should take place in an optional viewing site on the side or perimeter of the campus. Plaques may be created and given to the family at time of planting/scholarship/contribution, or displayed in a designated optional viewing site until the end of that particular school year and then given to the family. Funding for such memorials may be private donations or fund raising. Funds may not be allocated from the Derby Public School District operating budget. The particular form and location of each memorial shall be recommended by the Principal.

Temporary school-wide memorials for deceased students or staff may include plaques or other displays that are returned to the family at the end of the school year. Memorial symbols displayed by individuals on campus shall be limited to the school year within which the death occurred.

Most ordinarily, the ceremony will take place four to six months after the request, depending on seasonal conditions. Other types of memorials may be considered for approval, using the same process indicated above.

Policy adopted: May 16, 2013

DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Derby, Connecticut