

MESSALONSKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT (MSAD 47)

File: FFA-R

Memorials: Guidelines for Memorializing Deceased Students

Rationale

The loss of a child is one of the most devastating events to occur to a family. The Messalonskee School District shares in that loss. In order to memorialize the loss of a child who is also a student of MSAD #47, the following policy will be in place.

The Messalonskee School District will consult with parents of the deceased student to determine if the parents consent to memorializing their child.

a. Photos

A student who is deceased while attending the Messalonskee School District may be memorialized through display of a photo in the School lobby area in a place to be determined by the principal. Photos will be no larger than 8 ½ x 11 inches. Students' photographs will be displayed until graduation of the students' class. The photograph of a student who dies in the senior year may be displayed until graduation of the following class. The school will give parents the photos at the conclusion of their display.

b. Memorials

Messalonskee High School maintains a memorial sculpture to commemorate all deceased students. No unauthorized group or individual memorials are permitted. The school may establish a quiet area for contemplation and reflection.

c. Graduation

- Deceased students may be recognized at graduation through a moment of silence.
- Posthumous diplomas will only be awarded to students who completed all graduation requirements. The family may choose to have the diploma awarded in a private ceremony or have a family member/surrogate accept the diploma for the deceased child.
- A family may also request a cap and gown in memory of a deceased student.
- There will be no personalized participation in graduation ceremonies on behalf of a deceased student unless the student had completed all graduation requirements.

Date of Adoption: August 3, 2005