

Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

SECTION:	100 – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	CODE:	AP 169.17
PROCEDURE:	SUICIDE		

BACKGROUND

The school's general response to a suicide does not differ markedly from a response to any sudden death crisis. However, some issues exclusive to suicide require specific attention. School administrators must allow students to grieve the loss of a peer without glorifying the method of death. Overemphasis of a suicide may be interpreted by vulnerable students as glamorization of the suicidal act, which can assign legendary or idolized status to taking one's own life.

PROCEDURES

1. The following "DO's" and "DON'Ts" will help school staff limit glamorization of suicide:
 - 1.1 Do acknowledge the suicide as a tragic loss of life.
 - 1.2 Do allow students to attend funeral services.
 - 1.3 Do provide support for students profoundly affected by the death.
 - 1.4 Do not organize school assemblies to honor the deceased student.
 - 1.5 Do not dedicate the yearbook or yearbook pages, newspaper articles, proms, athletic events, or advertisements to the deceased individual.
 - 1.6 Do not pay tribute to a suicidal act by planting trees, hanging engraved plaques, or holding other memorial activities.

WARNING:

A suicide in the school community can heighten the likelihood, in the subsequent weeks, of "copycat" suicide attempts and threats among those especially vulnerable to the effects of a suicide. To prevent further tragedies, students considered to be especially susceptible to depression/suicide must be carefully monitored and appropriate action taken if they are identified as high risk. These efforts require a limited, rather than school wide, response.

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