

STUDENT MEMORIALS

Aurora Public Schools recognizes that the loss of a student is deeply and broadly felt in the school community. For fellow students, it may be their first direct experience with losing a friend. For parents, it is an almost unbearable tragedy. For educators, it is a time of difficult balance between allowing students a time to grieve and encouraging a return to school work. The district must be sensitive to the needs of those individuals feeling the loss. Because school is a major part of our lives, many in the school community will feel the need to memorialize the life of a deceased student as a means of coping, healing, and remembering. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the various types of memorials which may be established in the school setting. Since schools are places designed primarily to support learning, these guidelines will ensure that memorials are appropriate and consistent across the district.

Acceptable Types of Student Memorials

Any student memorial involving the district or any of its schools, facilities, or programs must first be approved by the principal, and shall be limited to the following.

1. Yearbook. A student who has died may be acknowledged in his/her school yearbook in the year of the student's death. Information about the student may be included on a "Memorial Page." The information shall be limited to the student's name, photo, dates of birth and death, and school activities in which the student participated. Any other information must be specifically approved by the school's principal.
2. School Newspaper/Newsletter. Acknowledgement of a student's death and/or a tribute to his/her life may be included in one issue of the school's newspaper or newsletter.
3. Dedications. An existing school program, playbill, or specific event may be dedicated to the memory of the deceased student. Dedications shall be limited to one-time events relevant to those activities in which the student participated. Dedications should take place before graduation of the school year during which the death occurred.
4. Commemorative Events. A commemorative school event may be established and held in the name of the deceased student. Commemorative events may be advertised, but not held, during school hours provided the advertising or the commemorative event does not alter the routine of a regular school instruction day, require the altering of school property, require the altering of school activities or the activities schedule, infringe on the separation of church and state, or require the use of public funds.