



# Cloonan Middle School

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*Principal David Rudolph*  
*Assistant Principal Lauren Mody*  
*Assistant Principal David Tate*

October 20, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We regret to inform you that Mr. Vincent Sheridan, Grade 8 Math Teacher, passed away this morning at Cloonan shortly before school began. He was a veteran of this staff and district, and one of our foremost teachers. He set the highest standards of success for all students and provided them the means to reach those levels.

“The Sergeant”, as he was affectionately known, was a man of humor, wit, and caring. Even though he was strict and stern on the outside, he was loved by all of the students. They knew how much he cared about them. His commitment to educating students rose from a deep, abiding love and dedication to this country. Not only was Mr. Sheridan an excellent teacher for students, he was also an excellent role model for teachers. He was a mentor, guide and support to both new and veteran staff. His loss leaves a void that cannot easily be filled.

In this time of sadness, please know that we are doing everything possible to support our students and staff as we deal with this tragedy. The school district is providing counselors for anyone who needs to talk through the situation. We are also including with this letter some guidelines for how you can help your child cope with his or her grief. We will also keep you informed as we move forward.

Please let us know if there is anything else that we can do for your child. The grieving process does not have a timeline. Reactions may be delayed or come in unexpected ways. Be assured that whatever support is needed will be available whenever it is needed. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Sincerely,

David Rudolph

Lauren Mody

David Tate