

# LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Office the Superintendent

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February 20, 2023

Dear Linden School Community,

Once again, I have the sad duty to report to you on tragic events. Two of our students died yesterday at their home in Linden. Both students, Sebastian Nieroda (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and Natalia Nieroda (7<sup>th</sup> grade), were students at McManus Middle School. The circumstances of their death have been reported today in a joint statement by the Linden Police Department and the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

We in the Linden Public Schools look to ease the pain of our students and staff. The district's crisis response plan has been activated to support students and staff at McManus Middle School, as well as School #10 where the two students previously attended elementary school. Tomorrow and going forward we will have grief counselors available to help process this loss.

The death of two young lives affects us all. But we are determined, now more than ever, that we will do all that is possible to help our students and staff process the impact of this tragic event and to deal with the pain. Any student death affects us all. But we will never become so accustomed to loss like this that we can't respond with empathy, understanding and care. We will fully support each other during these difficult times. Let us all work together towards that end.

Sincerely,

Rocco G. Tomazic  
Interim Superintendent