

# COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes, Superintendent  
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December 30, 2023

Comstock Families,

It is with great sorrow that I pass along the following information. One of our high school students, Tristan Billman, was struck and killed in a car/pedestrian accident in Kalamazoo early in the morning on Friday, December 29. The District has few details about the incident at this time, but our students and staff who knew Tristan are devastated. Tristan attended both Comstock Elementary and Comstock Middle Schools, and currently has siblings attending both buildings.

Given the impact that this tragedy will have on our school community, I will be meeting with the District's leadership team this coming week to activate and coordinate the District's five-day postvention response plan. This plan is a guide that the members of the Colt Cabinet will use to create a district-wide response regarding information and updates, and to provide and facilitate emotional support and grief counseling starting on Monday, January 8, when school resumes.

If you have any questions or believe your child needs immediate assistance, please feel free to reach out to me or your child's principal, as we are here to lend support during this time of grief.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes

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