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Michael D. White  
Principal

# ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL ANN ARBOR ~ MICHIGAN

*Pioneer High School students will be engaged as active and curious learners who embrace the rich diversity of the world around them in pursuit of productive and satisfying lives.*  
~ Mission Statement, 2007

January 12, 2009

Dear Pioneer Parents, Guardians and Students,

Sadly we regret to inform you that one of our 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, Michael Jefferson, passed away today at school. The student was feeling ill during a gym class. As he left the class he collapsed in the hallway. Medical assistance was provided to the student immediately by school staff until emergency medical personnel responded. Regretfully they were unable to revive Michael.

The district's crisis team responded immediately to Pioneer. Students in the gym class as well as students in Michael's class were attended to by the trained crisis team. All Pioneer teachers were asked to tell their students during 6<sup>th</sup> hour class. The crisis team was at school monitoring staff and students. Trained staff will be at school this week to assist anyone who may need assistance. If your student needs assistance please have them go to the counseling office where they will be cared for and their concerns addressed.

We don't have any information on final arrangements but will have that available when the family informs us.

Please be aware that while your student may not have known Michael this may bring up other feelings. Please acknowledge their questions and reactions. It is important to share the facts that we know at this point. We do not know the exact cause of Michael's death. Michael has siblings and relatives in the district and at Pioneer and they will be assisted as well.

If you have any questions or concerns about your student's reaction, please contact my office at 994-2120.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Michael's family, friends, fellow students and teachers. The Pioneer community will work together with district staff to support Michael's family through this tragedy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael D. White'.

Michael White  
Principal