



Monday, May 17, 2021

Dear Collegiate Academy families,

We are incredibly saddened to inform you of that one of our beloved instructors, Carla Hughes, passed away suddenly this morning. Carla was a fixture at Collegiate Academy for the entirety of her 17-year career with Erie's Public Schools, and in that time she introduced hundreds of students to the world of dance. We are all deeply grieving her loss.

The death of a teacher can prompt a variety of questions, concerns and emotions from students as they try to process the news and understand their feelings. Counselors and other professionals who are trained to help meet the emotional needs of our students, staff and parents were present at the school today and will be here tomorrow, Tuesday, May 18, from 8:30 to 12:00, as part of our districtwide Student Assistance Program and will continue to be available to anyone who may need or want assistance in the days ahead.

If you would like additional information or need support, we are here to help. Please do not hesitate to contact us at (814) 874-6300. The grieving process can be difficult. If you have further concerns regarding your child/students behavior regarding this loss, there are many agencies in Erie County which can provide further assistance. If you feel there is a need for immediate assistance, please contact Crisis Services 814-456-2014.

Sincerely,

James Vieira, Dean

Robert Causgrove, Associate Dean

Dana Gilmore, Dean, Visual and Performing Arts Academy