

MANASQUAN SCHOOL DISTRICT & COMMON GROUND GRIEF CENTER “SOMETHING IN COMMON” PEER TO PEER PROGRAM



The primary goal/purpose of this program is to normalize the experience of grief so that students feel comfortable reaching out to their teachers, counselors and peers for support. Peer mentors will provide a caring, supportive relationship with their fellow peers who are grieving the death of someone close to them.

Listed below are some ways in which grief affects youth:

- Difficulty concentrating in school
- Poorer school performance
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Poor coping mechanisms
- Lower self-esteem
- Behavioral issues
- Feelings of loneliness

All of the above can be triggered by a plethora of things, many of which take place right in school. For high school students, the many milestones they are presented with during this time are often sad and painful reminders of the absence of their loved one. In addition, many high school students are trying to remain “strong” for their surviving parent coupled with extensive financial burden placed on the family.

The “*Something in Common*” program would allow grieving students to be connected with fellow students who are part of our regular support groups and have been trained by the Common Ground Center’s staff.

How the program will work:

- Common Ground will provide the names of our peer mentors to the school counselors, Mrs. Busco and Mrs. Sanders. Our peer mentors will have already completed a 2.5 hour training with Common Ground staff in order to be a peer mentor.
- Applications for Common Ground mentors must be completed by their parent/guardian.
- Grieving students will have an opportunity to meet with the peer mentor, under the guidance of the school counselor or SAC, at a location within the school and selected by the school counselor on an “as needed” basis.
- Communication will be made with the grieving student’s parent/guardian notifying them that participation in the program has taken place.
- Communication will be fluid between the school counselors and Common Ground “*Something in Common*” program coordinators.

If you know of a student that may benefit from this program, you may contact

- Leigh Busco, Student Assistant Counselor- 732-528-8820x1028
- Nancy Sanders, School Counselor-732-528-8810x2201
- Lynn Snyder, Executive Director Common Ground Grief Center 732-606-7477