



**JOHNSTOWN-MONROE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

November 16, 2023

Dear Johnstown-Monroe Families & Staff:

On Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, Johnstown-Monroe will join other Licking County School Districts in asking students and staff to wear red and black in a display of solidarity and tribute to the Tuscarawas Valley community, which is struggling to cope with the loss of—as well as serious injury to—numerous students, teachers and other adults, as a result of a multi-vehicle crash here in Licking County on Tuesday, Nov. 14.

While all district students and staff are encouraged to wear red and black, please note that usual building-specific dress down restrictions apply. Each building will also accept any cash donations families may want to contribute. Any funds collected will be directed to the First Federal Community Bank in Tuscarawas, which in conjunction with the Trojan Foundation, has established a fund to collect donations to help those affected by Tuesday's tragedy.

The morning crash on I-70 near Ohio Route 310 in Etna Township was a chain-reaction collision involving a school-district chartered bus, a tractor trailer and passenger cars, among other vehicles. The crash resulted in six deaths and numerous injuries.

The charter bus was carrying 54 students, teachers, and chaperones from Tuscarawas Valley Local Schools in Zoarville, Ohio. The students were scheduled to perform at an Ohio School Board Association Conference in Columbus. Other students and parents were traveling in passenger vehicles according to The Columbus Dispatch.

The crash drew response from numerous Licking and Franklin County emergency services agencies, and victims were transported to numerous area hospitals for care.

The decision to ask Licking County students and staff to display Tuscarawas Valley Local Schools' colors of red and black is intended to show our support and solidarity with Tuscarawas as we keep the community and its members in our thoughts and prayers following this unthinkable tragedy.

Sincerely,

Philip H. Wagner, Ph.D.  
Superintendent