

# Important School District Message

## GCMS Principal Mr. Jim Brown

Dear CWC School Community,

The Caldwell - West Caldwell Public School District deeply mourns the loss of Mr. Jim Brown, Principal of Grover Cleveland Middle School, who passed away this week from COVID-19. Mr. Brown was a vibrant educational leader in the district for fourteen years. He was Vice Principal at James Caldwell High School for six years, and since August 2012 had been Principal of Grover Cleveland Middle School.

Mr. Brown developed numerous innovative programs in his eight years as GCMS Principal. He helped to transform two unused supply rooms into state-of-the-art STEM learning centers. Through several grants that he wrote, students had opportunities to engage in Virtual Reality learning programs, Robotics, and Environmental Studies through a weather station and a green house. Perhaps his most transformative work, though, was in the area of social-emotional learning and community service. Mr. Brown introduced a House System to foster team-building and school spirit, and he created an Advisory/Enrichment Program that allows students to develop networks of support and to explore their interests. He brought in many speakers from all walks of life to provide students with models of determination, grit, and commitment to helping those in need. Mr. Brown's unmatched dedication to community service inspired students, faculty, and parents to focus on compassion for our fellow citizens and to make a difference every day.

Jim Brown will be remembered as an outstanding educator who made tremendous contributions to the entire community of Caldwell - West Caldwell and beyond. We mourn the loss of a wonderful colleague who enriched our lives with his kindness, intelligence, and humor, we extend our deepest condolences to his family.

On Friday, April 3, we are providing supportive resources to the students, staff, and parents, and will continue this through the coming weeks. Below I have re-posted some of the resources shared yesterday as well.

Please continue to keep Mr. Brown's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

James Heinegg

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, you may consider contacting any of the following resources listed below:

- [Grief Speaks](#)
- [Traumatic Loss Coalition](#)

- [The Alcove](#)

Offering Tele-health Services

Center for Family Services <https://www.centerffs.org/our-services/counseling-behavioral-health/comprehensive-outpatient-counseling>

Mobile Crisis Response

Rutgers (877)-652-7624

<https://ubhc.rutgers.edu/clinical/community/childrens-mobile-response-and-stabilization-services.xml>

PerformCare (877)-652-7624

<https://www.performcarenj.org/families/behavioral/index.aspx>

NJ Regional Crisis Hotline (888) 222-2228