



EAST
1801 East Main Street
Rochester, New York 14609
Phone: 585.288-3130

Dear East community,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you today to inform you of the unfortunate passing of Andrea Szozda. An unexpected cardiac event led to her death overnight. Andrea leaves behind a loving husband and three-year-old daughter. Our heartfelt condolences and thoughts go out to her family, and we will continue to be in touch with her husband to support them during this difficult time.

Andrea is a 14-year veteran RCSD teacher. While she has been at East for only one year, she has had a tremendous impact on her colleagues and scholars alike as a science teacher in East's Lower School. Most recently, she stepped into the role of teacher leader and excelled in that capacity at every level. I am grateful for her contributions to East and the District over the years.

This is a time of great sorrow for our school community. As we grieve together, please know there are a number of services available to staff and students. **Our Grief Support Team will be available in the Collaboratorium today (7/29/21), from 12 to 3 p.m., and again tomorrow (7/30/21), from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. for East students and staff and any district staff who would like support during this difficult time.** Please remember that we must wear masks and practice appropriate social distancing, even when all we want to do is embrace and comfort each other. If you feel that you or a scholar would like to talk with an East counselor for additional support, please contact Denise Daly at Denise.Daly@rcsdk12.org

The loss of Andrea will be felt deeply by her colleagues, students, and alumni across the entire District. Like the rest of our school community, I will miss Andrea greatly, but I know our students and staff will lean on each other as we process this news and remember their colleague and teacher. Please join me in keeping Andrea's family in your thoughts.

With sadness and a heavy heart,
Tanya

Tanya Wilson, Ed.D.
Principal, East Lower School