



# Community High School District 99

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David R. Eblen  
Superintendent of Schools

October 27, 2003

Dear South High Colleagues:

This past weekend South High and District 99 lost a great educator and an outstanding human being. After a valiant fight of over two years, Jim Bonfield finally succumbed to his many illnesses. He set an incredible standard for all of us as he faced major health problems in such a positive manner. Jim's death leaves a big void in our school community, and our flags fly at half staff in his honor.

Jim Bonfield embodied all the qualities of the greatest teachers, and he possessed the finest characteristics of the most compassionate human beings. Whether as a dean helping a student learn from a transgression, or as a coach teaching fundamentals, or as a colleague helping you through a tough day, Jim always had a smile on his face and a positive comment in his words. His life was imbued with a great sense of humor, and he had an appropriate phrase for every situation. Remember "rub a dub dub", or "ready, ready?" Jim was a true gentleman, and he possessed a zest for life that was unsurpassed.

Jim's commitment to South High and District 99 for over three decades was legendary. No detail was too small nor task too great that he would not tackle it on behalf of our school. Jim was also deeply devoted to his wife Annette and son Jimmy, and reminded us constantly that family always comes first.

Although we grieve at our loss, we also celebrate the many years it was our privilege to be associated with Jim in both professional and personal settings. His goal had been to see his son graduate from North High last June, and he achieved that goal. Our goal should be to treasure our fond experiences with Jim, and endeavor to emulate in our own life the wonderful qualities Jim exuded daily.

Sincerely,

David R. Eblen  
Superintendent

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