



Lakota Local School District
Student Services Department
5572 Princeton Rd.
Liberty Township, Ohio 45044
(513) 874-5505
www.lakotaonline.com

November 11, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Companions on a Journey (COJ) has been an asset to the Lakota Local School District. COJ started providing small group services at individual buildings more than 15 years ago. Since then, they have regularly provided us with support in immediate crisis situations and facilitated consistent grief groups in all 23 of our buildings. COJ's support has resonated with our students, staff, and families because of their recognition that loss is not just through death, but through divorce, incarceration, and other means and that grief is a long term process. Sheila and her team have helped our students, staff, and families find the balance between managing their grief while continuing to move forward in their academic and personal lives.

We are extremely grateful that Sheila and her team provide personal outreach to families experiencing grief as well. When we are aware of a situation where a family could benefit from support, we will provide that information to Sheila and her team (with family permission). Sheila and her team make phone calls, personal visits, attend services, and invite families to support groups. This personal connection is invaluable. They are trained and able to provide assistance in a way that families see as valuable and supportive. Not only is the personal outreach helpful, but to have COJ offer groups to the rest of the community provides systemic support that would be lacking otherwise.

We appreciate our consistent and continued relationship with Companions on a Journey. Our partnership has evolved over the years, and we enjoy a systemic support structure that meets our district's needs. We encourage other districts to consider the same. We are available to answer any questions other districts may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Brown".

Lori Brown, M.Ed., B.S.
Director of Student Services

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Cameron".

Megan Cameron, MA IMFT-S
Student Wellness Coordinator