January 15, 2019

Dear Armatage Families,

It is with a broken heart that I share with you that Steve Bonine, our schools longtime Community Education Director, passed away last Saturday. Steve has been working for Minneapolis Public Schools for 22 years, at both Armatage and Lyndale schools. He is well known and highly regarded by the district, school, community and afterschool students and families!

With love and passion for kids and building community, Steve would always make sure to take care of the people working with him. Steve’s kind heart and soul made him a special person and a larger than life figure in the communities he served. There is no doubt that he made a difference in the lives of our students, school and community.

A memorial service has been arranged for this Saturday, January 19th in the Armatage Montessori lower gymnasium. There will be a visitation at 10:00 a.m. and a Celebration of Life service at 11:00 a.m.... Following the service, guests will be invited to go upstairs to the cafeteria for refreshments. You and your children are invited to attend.

At one point in the service, Miss Anita will invite any Armatage student interested in helping sing a song dedicated to Mr. Bonine to quietly and respectfully come up and join her.

We are setting up a Steve Bonine Scholarship fund to support students whose families cannot afford to pay for after school activities. If you are interested in making a donation, please send a check made out to: Armatage Montessori School and in the memo line write Steve Bonine Scholarship Fund.

I know death is difficult for adults to deal with, and for children it is even harder. Please know our staff will work through any questions the students may have and if necessary refer children to one of our social workers for support.

I look forward to seeing you on Saturday as we honor and celebrate the life of Mr. Bonine.

Sincerely,

Joan Franks, Principal