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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Paltz, New York

## **New Paltz Central School District Community Mourns Loss of Student**

New Paltz--On Friday, March 13th, during afterschool track practice, Kyle Brewer, a sophomore at New Paltz High School, collapsed and was unresponsive.

Staff and students present responded immediately by calling 911, administering CPR, and using the school's automated external defibrillator (AED). The New Paltz Rescue Squad responded quickly and Kyle was transported to Vassar Hospital in Poughkeepsie. It was later determined he had a heart attack. He was then transferred to Westchester Medical Center. Unfortunately, at approximately 11:30 p.m. Sunday evening, Kyle suffered another heart attack and passed away.

"Kyle was a well-liked, kind, witty, young man who had a great sense of humor. He was a good friend, studious, never angry, thoughtful, and mature beyond his age," said New Paltz High School Principal Barbara Clinton. "Overall, he was simply an impressive young man who positively touched the people he knew."

Mrs. Clinton and High School Track coach Don Bartlett met with faculty and staff early Monday morning to inform them of Kyle's passing. Coach Bartlett and his assistant coaching staff met with the track athletes and other students who were outside during

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*Questions regarding this media release may be directed to Dusti Callo, District Clerk,  
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Kyle's collapse to share the tragic news. A meeting was also held with the entire sophomore class prior to informing the remainder of the student body.

A roll of white paper was hung at the school today for students to write their thoughts and share messages with Kyle's family. Mr. Cook's class also made cards to send to the family. "The messages were all so heartfelt. They were all positive, upbeat, and personal," said Mrs. Clinton.

The District's Crisis Team, along with counselors from the Astor Services for Children and Families and the Institute for Family Health, have been on hand for grief counseling and will continue to be available throughout the week, or longer if needed. Dutchess County Mental Hygiene also has a 24/7 "text hotline" available to all staff and students which can be accessed by texting 741-741.

Resources from the National Association of School Psychologists about supporting children and adolescents who are dealing with grief from death are available on the High School website. It is important for parents to be aware that all students process death differently and will have varied reactions. These reactions can range from withdrawal, depression, nightmares, anger, avoidance, or participating in high-risk behavior. Parents are urged to openly discuss Kyle's death and encourage their children to share their reactions and feelings. If anyone is concerned about the way their child is coping with this loss, please contact the High School Guidance Department at 845-256-4100.

"Kyle's passing is heart breaking for the entire school community. He was an amazing young man with a promising future," said Superintendent Maria C. Rice. "The Board of Education, administration, and faculty and staff all extend their most heartfelt sympathy to the Brewer/Brown family."

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