

McLouth Unified Schools

**District No. 342
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**Steve Splichal
Superintendent**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

McLouth School District Announces Death of Student

McLouth, Kan. (June 2, 2011) – The McLouth School District confirms that McLouth High School student Justin Johnston passed away early this morning. Johnston, a MHS student, died while on a school trip to Costa Rica, the victim of an early morning shooting.

Johnston, 16, was on a nine-day trip with 12 students and two district sponsors. The students were traveling with the school's Spanish Club. The trip was arranged through EF Educational Tours based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

No other students were injured. The safety and security of the students and sponsors is imperative to the school district. District officials are working with EF Educational Tours to ensure their safety and to make travel arrangements for an early arrival home. EF Educational Tours is taking steps to make counselors available to the students and sponsors. District officials have been in close communication with families who have students on the trip.

The district's primary concern is for the Johnston family and also for the many students and staff members who are affected by this tragedy. The district's crisis plan has been activated and counselors will be available on site for students and staff today and tomorrow.

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For more information, contact the McLouth School District at 913-796-6122 or via email at info@mclouth.org.