

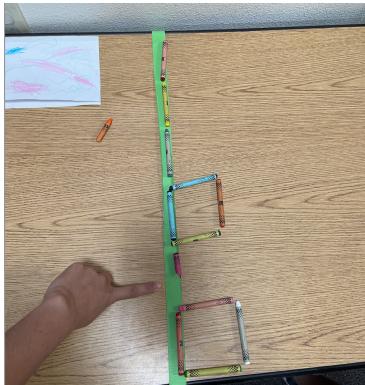
Testimony in honor of my student, Kamari Wolfe: Charter School Board Authority

My name is Juliana Urtubey and I was one of Kamari Wolfe's teachers at Kermit Booker Elementary during the 2020-2021 school year. I am the 2021 National Teacher of the Year and the 2021 Nevada State Teacher of the Year.

Kamari was a bright and warm Pre-K student. He loved to dance, play with his friends, and learn. One of his favorite activities was an interactive yoga video where he got to "go on dragon hunts" with his classmates and teachers.



Kamari was energetic and warm. He was bright and interested. Once, we were measuring classroom furniture with crayons. While measuring his table, he laid six crayons across. One of the crayons was broken and missing its bottom third so Kamari left a gap because he knew that he had to account for the entire crayon. This showed terrific reasoning skills and mathematical thinking at a young age. I remember waiting with Kamari and his friends to be picked up from school. They hugged and sang and giggled. I was grateful to team up with Ms. Sharena Joseph to provide Kamari all the love and support he needed in Pre-K.



Watching him get his end of the year diploma was a proud moment for us all.

I am writing to celebrate Kamari Wolfe's life and also to advocate for an increase in school safety. Kamari's tragic death while commuting to school was preventable. On Friday, October 6, Kamari was struck by a van crossing Somerset Academy's Losee Campus. All schools must have a holistic safety plan in place to protect students and

families. While it is my understanding that Kamari's accident occurred across the street from Somerset Academy, schools are responsible for creating protocols for safe student drop offs and pickups. Families have reported an unacceptable lack of safety protocols with impatient and unsafe driving occurring at and around the school. Families say that unsafe conditions are a frequent occurrence near the school. A mother called the traffic around the school, "hectic" and navigating it a, "battlefield."

According to the Review Journal, this is the second student to die in a traffic accident before or after school. In 2020, a 12 year old boy died crossing Lone Mountain Road after school. His nine year old sister was also hit and survived after being in the ICU. I call on the Nevada Department of Education, the Charter School Authority Board, the North Las Vegas Police, and the City of North Las Vegas to act **immediately** to ensure safety is a top priority at all Las Vegas schools.

No one prepares you as a teacher to lose a student, to comfort a grieving family, or to soothe children scared and sad that their community has experienced such an unspeakable loss. Keeping our students safe is our job. I urge you to enact policy and accountability systems to immediately ensure students and their families are safe at drop offs and pick-ups in and around our schools.

I will cherish the memories I have of Kamari running to hug me in the mornings. Or watching him give me a little finger wave as I came in and out of his classroom. I will also do all I can to ensure we learn and enact change in the wake of his tragic death.

Please call on me to continue to build safety protocols for children and families.

Juliana Urtubey, NBCT
2021 National Teacher of the Year
2021 Nevada Teacher of the Year

