In U.S., principal at Tennessee Adventist school found dead; student, 17, in custody

The principal of Memphis Junior Academy in the U.S. state of Tennessee was found dead this morning at the school, and police have a 17-year-old male student in custody.

Memphis police said that Suzette York, 49, was found dead with a fatal wound and that the student was on the scene when officers arrived.

Police have not released a cause of death or motive and the exact details surrounding the apparent homicide are still under investigation, police spokeswoman Karen Rudolph said.

Read full story at http://secsda.org/sketches/story.cfm?id=1014
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Suzette York, principal of the Memphis Junior Academy was found dead in a classroom the school located in Memphis, TN. The 49-year old principal was allegedly killed by one of the students. The Memphis Junior Academy operated by the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Suzette York came to Memphis Junior Academy as a teacher in 1996 and had been principal for the past three years. Prior to joining the Kentucky-Tennessee staff she taught for nine years in the British Columbia and Maritime Conferences in Canada.

Counseling is being arranged for the students and staff. When it is appropriate we expect to resume classes at Memphis Junior Academy.

Seventh-day Adventists have a long tradition of providing safe schools that offer quality education. This tragedy strengthens our resolve to be ever vigilant to protect our teachers and students from harm.

Our faith in God and in our mission remains; to it we now add a commitment to honor Suzette York’s service and sacrifice.

Steve Haley, conference president says, “This is a very sad day for all of us in this community, and particularly for the Seventh-day Adventist family. We are shocked and saddened over the tragedy that has befallen Suzette York. She was not only an administrator, but also a colleague, a friend and a fellow believer. Our prayers are lifted on behalf of her husband as well as the staff and students at Memphis Junior Academy. We are also praying for all those impacted by this tragedy.”