

columbine

## No formal ceremony for Columbine

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**Mar. 28, 2001** - Family members of the Columbine shooting victims have asked the Jefferson County School District not to hold a formal ceremony on April 20 to mark the second anniversary of the tragedy.

Originally, district officials had planned for a low-key memorial event at the Clement Park Amphitheater. The ceremony would have consisted of a reading of the victims' names in time with the tolling of a bell and the possible dedication of a permanent memorial.

"We sent e-mails to all the families and asked them to respond to how they would like us to approach this," said Rick Kaufman, the district's spokesman. "It was a consensus that there be no formal program."

Kaufman said the district will meet April 2 with members of the religious community and the Foothills Park and Recreation District to discuss other options. Melody Smith, a spokeswoman for the victims' families, said the families may gather at a private ceremony at an undisclosed location. "It's just time for some peace," she said. "They just decided this year that they want to be left alone."