

June 6, 2018

Dear Junior High Parents,

This year as part of the Alberta Health Program of Studies, we are teaching Theme V topics – Human Sexuality- which may include the following outcomes:

For Grade 6/7

- Identify and describe the stages and factors that can affect human development from conception thru birth
- Examine and evaluate the risk factors associated with exposure to blood borne diseases- HIV, AIDS, hepatitis B/C; e.g., sharing needles, body piercing, tattooing, helping someone who is bleeding, being sexually active
- Examine the reproductive process and recognize misunderstandings associated with sexual development
- Identify the effects of social influences on sexuality and gender roles and equity; e.g., media, culture
- Examine the influences on personal decision making for responsible sexual behavior
- Examine abstinence and decisions to postpone sexual activity as healthy choices

For Grade 8/9

- Recognize and accept that individuals experience different rates of physical, emotional, sexual and social development
- Determine the signs, methods and consequences of various types of abuse; e.g., neglect, physical, emotional and sexual
- Apply coping strategies when experiencing different rates of physical, emotional, sexual and social development; e.g., positive self-talk
- Evaluate the implications and consequences of sexual assault on a victim and those associated with that victim
- Identify and describe the responsibilities and consequences associated with involvement in a sexual relationship
- Describe symptoms, effects, treatments and prevention for common sexually transmitted diseases; i.e, chlamydia, hepatitis B/C, HIV
- Identify and describe basic types of contraceptives; i.e, abstinence, condom, foam, birth control pills
- Determine “safer” sex practices; e.g., communicate with partner, maintain abstinence, limit partners, use condoms, etc.
- Identify and describe the responsibilities and resources associated with pregnancy and parenting
- Develop strategies that address factors to prevent or reduce sexual risk; e.g., abstain from drugs and alcohol, date in groups, use assertive behavior

More information about the curriculum can be accessed at the the Alberta Learning website:

<https://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildslearning/>

For the purpose of covering these sensitive topics, grade 6/7 and 8/9 students are combined and then split into a boys class and a girls class. These are the outcomes from the curriculum that are presented. Conversations are focused on the research and science associated with the topics. Students are encouraged to discuss what they learn with their parents. They are given opportunity during class to ask questions and answers to these questions are given based on science and facts.

As many parents have concerns about these topics being taught at school, you are welcome to call teachers ahead of time for more specific information, parents may attend the class with their child if they are the same gender as their child (girls are not comfortable with the topics when men are in the room and vice-versa), or you may contact teachers after a lesson if your child returns home with information that concerns you. You may also choose to teach these topics at home and opt out of the Theme V unit of health class. If you choose to opt your child out, please sign below and return to the school.

Theme V will be taught on June 18-20 from 1:00- 2:30 pm. The 6/7 boys are taught by Mr. Romeril and 6/7 girls taught by Mrs. Jacobs. The 8/9 boys are taught by Mr. Leishman and 8/9 girls by Ms. Burt.

If you have any questions, please contact the teachers or the school.

Thanks,

Stacy Jacobs

I prefer to have my child, _____, opt out of health class theme V.

Parent Signature

Date