



Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent
27 Farragut Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706
tel: (914) 478-6205 fax: (914) 478-6209
www.hohschools.org



William S. McKersie, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
mckersiew@hohschools.org

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Dear Hastings Families and Staff:

Earlier this week, the district notified elementary families that Curriculum Synopses for all subjects were available on the website. Today, we learned of social media reactions to the gender lesson synopses, with commentary reaching well-beyond the Hastings community.

The gender lessons have been in place for several years and are rooted in Hillside's core values of respect and fostering dignity for all students. One 30-minute gender lesson is taught in each class one time per year. The classes are led by a certified educator, following a specific set of lessons designed to help students value the full diversity of their classmates. The lessons have been created in alignment with the [NYS Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework](#). To clarify, these lessons do not address sex education or sexuality.

The gender lessons have been well received by the vast majority of students and families. We have made annual presentations to families about the lessons. I also have made a point to meet with parents regarding the gender lessons. We will continue to review the best way to help young students develop full respect for each other.

While we assess this situation, we have taken all Curriculum Synopses down from the Website. We will repost the curriculum information in the near future.

I would ask for your patience and support while we review the next best steps.

Thank you.

Bill

William S. McKersie, Ph.D.
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