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Dear Seventh-Grade Parents, Guardians and Caregivers:

The Rochester Community Schools Board of Education has established an age-appropriate program of instruction in health education for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade, in accordance with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and state regulations.

The MDE K-12 Health Education Committee created Reproductive Health and Human Sexuality Education guidelines that provide districts with best practices. Public school districts are required to teach about dangerous communicable diseases, including, but not limited to, HIV/AIDS. Age-appropriate instruction must be offered at least once a year at every building level including elementary, middle and high school.

In the upcoming weeks, we will be teaching the reproductive health/human sexuality and HIV/AIDS components of our health education curriculum. The concepts included in these lessons are:

1. Describe the functions and processes of the male and female reproductive systems.
2. Describe fetal development and birth.
3. Understand that abstinence is 100% effective in the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy and is the best, safest, and healthiest choice.
4. Understand there are risks and negative consequences associated with the use of condoms and birth control pills.
5. Understand that abstinence protects and promotes physical, social and emotional health.
6. Describe ways to reduce or eliminate the risks associated with sexual harassment and dating violence.
7. Understand the importance of respect and responsibility for one's self and others.
8. Analyze how heredity, environment, and personal health are related.

The order of the content is:

Day 1: Puberty

Day 2: Childbirth

Day 3: SHARE (Sexual Health and Relationship Education) presentation – goal setting and media

Day 4: SHARE presentation – sexually transmitted infections (STI)

Day 5: SHARE presentation – relationships

Day 6: HIV/AIDS

Classroom presentations will include approved materials, a discussion of concepts and a question-and-answer segment. Boys and girls will be separated for the growth and development puberty lessons on the first day, as described above. Additionally, students will participate in a three-day presentation by the SHARE organization promoting positive choices and the benefits of remaining abstinent. Please feel free to contact your child's health teacher if you have any questions.

Materials review

In accordance with the State School Aid Act for FY 94, you have the right to review the materials and curriculum content to be used in these courses. An outline of the specific course or grade-level content is included with this letter. Instructional materials, which include teacher guides, student texts (if applicable), and reproductive health films, will be available for your preview consideration. Additionally, a representative from the SHARE organization will be presenting information promoting positive choices and the benefits of remaining abstinent.

We may utilize the following audio-visual materials in our classroom study: "What is Puberty?" "Girls and Puberty/Boys and Puberty," "New Emotions, New Feelings," and "Human Reproduction and Childbirth."

You may review these materials at the district preview session. If your child is enrolled in seventh-grade health for this school year, **the preview session is scheduled for September 25, at 7p.m. in the Rochester High School Media Center**, located at 1361 Walton Blvd in Rochester Hills.

Please note that this is the only preview session scheduled. If you are unable to attend, copies of the video are available at the Rochester Hills Public Library. If you would like to check out videos from the public library, please bring this letter with you to the Youth Services Desk for assistance.

Family options

By law, parents have the right to observe reproductive health instruction in their child's classroom. They may also excuse their child, without penalty, from participation in the unit containing reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and/or other serious communicable disease information. Please complete the district opt-out form for reproductive health education if you wish to exempt your child from reproductive health or if you wish to observe classroom instruction.

Attached please find a copy of:

- Approved health education curriculum
- Rochester Community Schools reproductive health opt-out form

Thank you for taking this opportunity to understand the health education concepts being taught at school so that you may facilitate discussion at home and reinforce your family values.