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Dear Parent/Guardian,

The New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education were revised in 2020 to address the need for students to gain knowledge and skills in caring for themselves, interacting effectively with others, and analyzing the impact of choices and consequences.

We value the importance of partnering with families as we educate students in the knowledge and skills they need to lead a healthy, active life. We invite you to examine and discuss this information with your student(s) prior to the instructional units at school. Specifically, the content related to family life education. The curriculum explanations outlined below will also be available on the district website.

The majority of our health topics have been covered in second and fourth grades. The one topic that is covered in the fifth-grade curriculum is Sexual Reproduction. Students will learn the functioning of the reproductive system and human reproduction, and the basics of fetal development. As part of the unit, students will view videos from *BrainPop*. You can view the videos in *BrainPop* as an adult or using your child's password. These videos are entitled "Twins", "Babies", and "Sexual Reproduction". The final video shown is entitled "The Amazing Story of How Babies are Made". It is linked here.

Tenafly Public Schools acknowledges that parents/guardians are the primary family life educators for their student(s), and we are committed to partnering with you to provide supplementary resources to support you in this role. Although we strongly encourage families to have their student(s) participate in these essential health topics, we want to acknowledge that parents/guardians do have the option of excluding their student from any portion of sexuality/family life education instruction if it is in conflict with their conscience, morally, or religiously held beliefs. (See NJ Statute Section: 18A:35-4.7 below.[1])

If this conflict exists, submit the Grade 5 Opt-Out Form, which will be routed to your student's building principal.

Students who are excused will be assigned to a separate classroom for the duration of the lessons. These students will participate in a Social Emotional Learning-based (SEL) assignment.

[1] Section: 18A:35-4.7: Parent's statement of conflict with conscience: Any child whose parent or guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any part of the instructions in health, family life education, or sex education is in conflict with his conscience, or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is being given and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result therefrom.

Regards,
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Supervisor of Multilingual Learners, World Language, Health & Physical Education

Heidi Chizzik
Principal - Mackay Elementary School

Dr. Jennifer Ferrara
Principal - Maugham Elementary School

Daryl George
Principal - Smith Elementary School

Gayle Lander
Principal - Stillman Elementary School