April 15, 2019

Dear 5th Grade Parent/Guardian:

The Georgia State Board of Education has mandated that all school systems include human sexuality education in grades K-12 as part of a comprehensive health education plan. HIV/AIDS education is also mandated by the board. This unit will take place on Thursday, May 2nd in your child's health course.

The Fulton County Schools will offer growth and development and human sexuality education and HIV/AIDS education units in the required health course taught in 5th – 9th grades. Our school system believes that all students should have access to factually accurate and appropriate information about these topics. Students who are armed with the facts are better able to make good, healthy decisions. We also know that abstinence from sexual activity is best for school-aged children. All instruction in this unit is prefaced by this fact. However, the instruction that occurs in our schools should complement what is being taught at home. Your values and expectations should be made very clear to your children.

There are specific required objectives that are covered in these units at each grade level. The objectives address many issues; among them are human physiology and puberty, how we perceive ourselves and our roles, recognizing and communicating our feelings, making decisions, sexually-transmitted diseases and their prevention including HIV/AIDS, birth control, the changing family, child-birth and parenting and teenage pregnancy.

For this unit, our district utilizes the Choosing the Best curriculum (i.e., Way, Path, Life, and Journey), a health textbook, and supplemental material about growth and development and human sexuality. Materials that are used in class are available for viewing at your child's school. Please contact Patty Neumeister, CST, to arrange a time to see these materials.

By state law, it is your right to remove your child from the sex education portion of his/her health class. If you choose to exempt your child, an alternate assignment will be given. If you DO NOT want your child to participate in the human sexuality portion of his/her health class, please return this form with your signature. Please email Mrs. Neumeister at neumeisterp@fultonschools.org or call her at 470-254-9701 if you have any questions. This does not need to be signed for your child to remain in sex education portion of class.

Sincerely,

*Matt Vance*

*Principal*

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**5TH GRADE HUMAN GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer that my minor child **be removed** from the human sexuality portion of his/her health education course.

Child’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_                          \_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this letter on or before Friday, April 26th if you DO NOT wish for your child to participate.**

**5th Grade Human Sexuality and HIV/AIDS**

The enhancement of health knowledge, attitudes and problem-solving skills is the focus of instruction in 5th grade health education. Human sexuality education is built on a comprehensive approach that focuses on growth and development, including puberty and anatomy of the male and female reproductive systems. Parent(s) have the option of removing their child from the human sexuality unit at each grade level, thus allowing parents adequate time to review materials used in the course, talk with the teacher and make an informed decision about their child’s participation. Parents must notify the school in writing if they choose to remove their child from the unit.

**5th Grade Georgia Professional Standards:**

**HE5.1:** Students will comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to

 enhance health.

**HE5.2:** Students will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other

 factors on health behaviors.

**HE5.3:** Students will demonstrate the ability to access valid information and products and services to

 enhance health.

**HE5.4**: Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance

 health and avoid or reduce health risks.

**HE5.5:** Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.

**HE5.6:** Students will demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.

**HE5.7:** Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or

 reduce health risks.

**HE5.8:** Students will demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family, and community health.

**Topics covered during Growth and Development:**

* Explanation of physical, social and emotional changes during puberty
* Hormones and hormone production; introduce the endocrine system
* Basic anatomy of the reproductive system- girls learn girls, boys learn boys
* Personal hygiene, grooming and positive health habits during puberty
* Importance of communication with parents/guardians; having a support system
* Positive self-esteem and the influence of accepting responsibility to make wise choices
* Menstrual cycle and menstrual protection (girls only)
* Ejaculation, erections and nocturnal emission (boys only)
* Describe the long-term benefits of avoiding peer pressure to engage in unhealthy behaviors

**Vocabulary:**

Consequences Clique Consumer

Influence Peers Peer Pressure

Personal Choices Perception Refusal Strategies

Negotiation Skills Risky Behavior Reproductive Body Parts

Positive Self-image Puberty HIV

AIDS Adolescence Growth Spurt

Endocrine System Hormones