

Dear Parent/Guardian:

18 November 2022

The Wellness/Health Department at Haverhill High School will be implementing lessons on Human Sexuality in Health II classes as part of the Wellness Curriculum for school year 2022-2023. Health is an important topic that offers lessons, shared discussions and activities on age appropriate topics that contribute to our students' social and emotional growth. Your scholar received lessons in the following topics in Health I prior to taking Health II: personal hygiene, anatomy and physiology of the reproductive system, decision making, sexual abstinence, contraception, and pregnancy. Dating relationships, interpersonal violence, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV/AIDS were also covered.

For your knowledge the Health II curriculum maps have been recently updated to reflect our newly purchased health curriculum (Heath Smart ETR <https://www.etr.org/healthsmart/lessons/high-school/>) and the diversity within our school. The Units include the following: resilience, good health, decision making, media and health literacy, managing anger and other emotions, violence prevention, communication, drug abuse and risk taking, emergency skills, healthy relationships and LGBTQ.

As noted above, Health II covers LGBTQ+ information through the Massachusetts Department of Health Safe Schools Program. <https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/lgbtq/> The Regulations for the Massachusetts Student Rights Law (MGL Ch. 76, Sec. 5) state that "all public school systems shall, through their curricula, encourage respect for the human and civil rights of all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin or sexual orientation."

Sexuality has been part of our health education program for many years. The topics are covered in a professional and dignified manner. Our teachers are sensitive to the concerns of students and parents. Currently there are two curriculums that are predominately used for these topics. "Sex Can Wait" <https://www.sexedstore.com/sex-can-wait-high-school/> and Educational Training and Research 3rd edition <https://www.etr.org/healthsmart/lessons/high-school/> We also follow the Massachusetts Health Frameworks <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JGkJCiNCJsA-EkYFZrB584UDA1qPAAx2/view?usp=sharing> and the National Health Standards <https://advocatesforyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/NSES-2020-web.pdf> Components of the sexuality unit will also be scattered within other components of the curriculum. For example, bullying would integrate with LGBTQ+ issues and sexuality with healthy relationships and decision making.

We encourage all students to be a part of these units; however, if you wish your scholar to not participate they may be excluded from this section of the course. This does not remove them from health but instead they will be assigned other health topics. They would be relocated to another classroom to complete individual course study and various written requirements chosen by the teacher. This letter is posted in your student's Google Health classroom in addition to a hard copy being provided to be shared at home. There is also a link to our presentation which describes in greater detail the Health I & II curriculum and how concepts will be embedded throughout the topics in the student's Health google classroom. *Please send this form back ONLY IF you do not wish your child to participate in this portion of the health curriculum.*

If you would like additional information about the program we have put together a video for you to view on the sexuality program here at Haverhill High School. The link is below:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eOH1_hrNkF8BBu44E_7opF77Q3BsNpzK/view?usp=sharing

Sincerely,

Megan Arivella, District Coach of Health & Wellness and Lisa Begley Dean of Wellness

___ I do not wish my student to participate in this unit.

(Student's Name)

(Parent signature and date)