



April 27, 2015

Re: Human Sexuality unit of the Alberta Health Curriculum

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child is currently enrolled in health class, which, in the next few weeks, will include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with human sexuality. This component of the health curriculum is regularly taught in schools and is a normal part of our school programming. We are required to provide you with notice of this component of our health curriculum and to give you the opportunity to exempt your child from this unit of the health curriculum if you so choose.

The purpose for the inclusion of this subject matter in our program is to achieve the following specific learner outcome for grade 4:

Personal Health - describe physical, emotional and social changes that occur during puberty; e.g., menstruation, secondary sexual characteristics, changing identity and moods.

Instruction involving the subject matter will begin the week of May 11, 2015.

Pursuant to section 11.1(2) of the *Human Rights Act*, you as a parent/guardian may request that your child be excluded from the above-identified instruction, without academic penalty, by having your child either:

- a) leave the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place or where the instructional material is being used for the duration of that part of the instruction; or
- b) remain in the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place without taking part in the instruction or use of instructional material.

For sample lessons and materials we will be using in this unit visit:

<http://www.teachingsexualhealth.ca/> The lesson and class materials are found in the *Teacher* section of that site. If you wish to preview the video used for this unit, please email your child's homeroom teacher to indicate that you would like to make accommodations for viewing. Of course, if you have specific questions about the human sexuality component of the health curriculum you can contact your child's homeroom teacher.

As the Human Sexuality unit focuses upon physical changes during puberty, some students may initially feel uncomfortable or unsure about the lessons being presented. A classroom environment of mutual respect is fostered, so that all students are able to feel comfortable in listening to, viewing and discussing related materials. A question box will be used at the culmination of each lesson, allowing students to ask questions related to the lesson in which they had been previously involved. Responses to those questions will be related to students at the beginning of the subsequent lesson. To ensure that these lessons can be conducted within the time allotted, we ask that parents discuss the importance of focus and handling the topics presented in a mature and respectful manner. This will allow everyone to feel confident about their ideas and questions throughout this particular Health unit.

IT IS ONLY NECESSARY TO FILL OUT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS!

INDICATION OF CONSENT FOR PARTICIPATION - *to be filled out if you consent to your child fully participating in the unit or lessons stated above.*

_____ I consent to my child _____ (name) being included in the health lessons addressing the human sexuality component of the program of studies, as described above.

Signature:

Parent/Legal Guardian Date

OR

INDICATION OF EXEMPTION - *to be filled out only in the event you wish to exempt your child from the unit or lessons stated above.*

In accordance with section 11.1(2) of the *Human Rights Act*, I hereby request that my child be excluded from the instruction, exercise or use of instructional material identified above.

I request that my child: (*check desired option*)

_____ Leave the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place or where the instructional material is being used for the duration of that part of the instruction.

-OR-

_____ Remain in the classroom or place where the instruction is taking place without taking part in the instruction or use of instructional material.

I confirm that I am the legal guardian of _____ [name of child] in grade _____ and have chosen to exercise my option to have my child excluded from the instruction described in the notice from the Calgary Science School on the dates indicated in this notice. I also confirm that it is my obligation to ensure that this form is returned to the school on or before the date of the instruction indicated.

Signature:

Parent/Legal Guardian Date