



Western Middle School

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Mr. Dale H. Dunham, Principal
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Douglas L. Newcombe, MBA/CPA
Interim Superintendent

2009-2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our Board of Education has approved lessons to be taught on HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) infection and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) as part of our health curriculum. All public schools are required to teach about HIV and AIDS under Michigan Law.

The Michigan Department of Education and Public Health have developed model lessons for children at each grade. These lessons help young people understand this disease and how to prevent its spread.

The lessons in sixth grade teach:

- AIDS is a disease that is caused by a virus call Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
- HIV gets into the body through blood to blood contact.
- HIV damages the immune system when it gets into the body, leading to other diseases and infections.
- HIV cannot be caught by:
 - Touching someone who has AIDS or is HIV infected
 - Sharing pencils or toys,
 - Hugging someone who has AIDS or is HIV infected,
 - Playing with someone who has AIDS or is HIV infected,
 - Talking to someone who has AIDS or is HIV infected, or
 - Coughing and sneezing without covering your mouth.
- HIV is spread by sharing needles and by having sexual contact with a person who is infected with HIV.
- How to prevent the spread of HIV.
- How to avoid situations that my result in transmission of HIV.

These lessons will be integrated in the sixth grade exploratory course.

Your child may be asked to share what he/she is learning about HIV/AIDS with you and to ask you if he/she has further questions. You will get a Family Resource Sheet after the lessons have been taught that will give you more information about HIV and AIDS.

You are welcome to preview the lessons and materials that will be used by contacting the principal, Mr. Dale Dunham at (662-4489) or myself. If you choose to remove your child from instructions, please indicate on the form below. **Only return the form if you are removing your child from instruction.** Student who will not be instructed in these specific lessons will be given a alternative assignment.

Sincerely,

Brenda Bascom, Health Teacher

I have received the letter regarding HIV and AIDS instruction and DO NOT want my child to participate in these lessons during the assigned exploratory arts instruction time.

Student Name

Parent Signature