



Clark Public Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

In compliance with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education, a Family Living Program of Study is required within the Health Curriculum for all of New Jersey's public schools.

The Health and Family Life instructional program provides students with information regarding personal health, disease, drugs, family living, and safety. Among the curricular topics included in the program are hygiene, nutrition, personal health habits, dental health, prevention of illness, understanding body systems, poisons, drug education, the five senses, home and school safety issues, and friendships. All lessons are planned in a developmentally appropriate fashion in consideration of the various grade levels. In fifth-grade there will be a lesson on puberty that is taught separately to boys and girls.

The Family Living Curriculum will be taught to students in kindergarten through grade twelve. The curriculum is delivered in various topics according to grade level. Kindergartners are instructed in Healthful Living, in Grades 1-5 the focus is Family Living, while in both middle school and high school the Family Life lessons are delivered as part of the Health and Physical Education instructional program. The complete curricular guide is available on our district website for review.

New Jersey Statutes Annotated 18A:35-4.7, which govern the operation of public school districts, states: "Any child whose parent or guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any part of the instructions of 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."

Should you wish your child to be excluded from any part of the Family Living program, we invite you to visit your child's school to review the curriculum and identify those components you wish to have him or her excluded from. At that time, you may sign a statement indicating your preference.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter as it is much appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Edward Grande

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