­­­Dear Sixth Grade Parents,

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

The Michigan Departments of Education and Public Health have developed excellent comprehensive and grade-appropriate lessons to assist schools in their efforts to help young people understand this disease and how to prevent its spread.

The lessons in Sixth grade focus on the following concepts:

•AIDS is a disease that is caused by a virus called Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

•HIV is different from most germs because it 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

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

•Preventing the spread of HIV means avoiding contact with other peoples blood

•Treat people who have AIDS or are HIV infected in a caring way. Play with them when they feel like it and be caring when they don’t feel well

•Scientists and doctors are working to find a cure for AIDS, effective treatment for HIV infected people, and a vaccine to prevent the spread of the disease

All of the lesson fit well with other health topics and will be presented in a natural, reassuring way. You are welcome to preview the AIDS lessons and materials before your student receives the instruction. All materials are available in the school office. If you prefer that this instruction not be given to your child, simply notify your building principal in writing.



Sincerely,

Carrie Wozniak

Assistant Superintendent