

**CANTERBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
45 WESTMINSTER ROAD
CANTERBURY, CT 06331**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This year, we will continue with our AIDS prevention curriculum for grades K-8. It is the result of Canterbury's attempt to strengthen our health program in addition to the state's mandate for such instruction to take place.

The curriculum provides planned, ongoing and systematic instruction relevant and appropriate for each grade level. It was developed based upon guidelines from the State of Connecticut, and input from teachers and community members.

In the lower grades, Kindergarten – 4, some of the AIDS concepts will include: AIDS is a serious illness, AIDS is hard to get – you cannot get it by being near someone; a person with AIDS needs to be accepted and cared for; healthy habits such as washing hands and not touching dirty or bloody objects increase chances of healthy living; AIDS is caused by a virus which has no vaccine or cure at this time.

In the fifth and sixth grades, the following additional concepts will be covered: the two major methods of transmission, blood to blood contact and sexual intercourse; saying "no" to illegal intravenous drug use and abstaining from high risk behaviors can protect people from getting AIDS.

In the upper grades, seven – eight, more scientific concepts regarding the virus such as its various stages, antibodies and antigens, will be covered, along with transmission of the virus and decisions regarding prevention.

While education is the best investment we can make in our students' health, it is also a sensitive task for schools to undertake. We, at the Canterbury School System, recognize the parents' rights in this matter. If, for personal reasons, you do not wish for your son/daughter to participate in the AIDS prevention activities, you may request for his/her removal from such instruction.

We are requesting that you fill out and return the bottom portion of this letter to your child's homeroom teacher. If you give permission for your child to receive the instruction, it will be provided and continued each year as he/she progresses through the grades. If, at any time throughout your child's schooling, you change your mind and do not want him/her to participate in the AIDS prevention curriculum, it is your responsibility to express your concerns in writing at that time. He/she will then be removed from any further instruction.

If, on the other hand, you ask that your child not participate in the AIDS curriculum, this information will be forwarded to his/her new teacher(s). Your child will be excluded each year unless we hear from you in writing stating your changed decision for him/her to receive the AIDS instruction.

It is of utmost importance that we receive every student's permission slip back as soon as possible. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

If you wish further information regarding the AIDS Prevention curriculum, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Sincerely,
Dr. Lois Knapton
Superintendent of Schools

Please return to your child's homeroom teacher.

_____ **HAS** my permission to participate in the AIDS
(Student's first & last name)
Prevention curriculum. I understand my permission is only needed this one time for such instruction to be given to my child from year to year. I also understand if I wish for his/her removal from the AIDS prevention activities, I must place it in writing.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

_____ **DOES NOT HAVE** my permission to participate
(Student's first & last name)
in the AIDS Prevention curriculum. I understand he/she will be excluded each year unless I place in writing my request for his/her participation in the program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date