



Steven Rioux, Superintendent of Schools
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

This year we will continue with our AIDS prevention curriculum for grade 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 through fourth grade, 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, seventh and eighth, 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 signed 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 each year 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,



Steven Rioux
Superintendent of Schools

PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO YOUR CHILD'S HOMEROOM TEACHER.

_____ has my permission to participate in the K-8 AIDS
(Student's First and 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 request it in writing.

_____ Date _____ Parent/Guardian Signature

_____ does not have my permission to participate in the K-8
(Student's First and Last Name)
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.

_____ Date _____ Parent/Guardian Signature