

Office of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

To meet state requirements for comprehensive health education instructional programs, all middle school students will be given the opportunity to participate in the Family Life and Human Sexuality Unit as part of their eighth-grade middle school health education curriculum. All materials utilized in this unit have been approved by the Family Life Committee, a state mandated, and Harford County Public Schools Board of Education sponsored committee.

This unit will cover:

- dynamics of healthy and unhealthy relationships
- gender identification and sexual orientation
- anatomy and physiology of the reproductive systems
- human reproduction including the menstrual cycle, fertilization, and implantation.
- the types, causes, transmission, symptoms, and prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS
- barrier, hormonal, and other methods of contraceptives including abstinence.
- effective communication strategies to avoid or reduce health risks (including sexting)

The HCPS procedure for family life curriculum review or unit opt out is as follows:

1. Contact your child's teacher to request a phone or in person meeting to discuss concerns and review curricular materials.
2. A phone or in person meeting may be scheduled to discuss concerns and review curricular materials.
3. If appropriate, Parent or Caregiver provides a written request to the teacher to opt child out of individual lessons or entirety of the unit within three days of the parent meeting. Students not participating in the unit will be provided with appropriate alternative health education assignments.
4. If additional questions or concerns remain after the above steps, email AskHCPS@hcps.org or call 410-809-6193 so your question can be directed to the appropriate individual or specific office.