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Dear Parent or Guardian:

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. Attached you will find an outline of the *Family Life* curriculum currently approved for use in our schools and mandated by the State Board of Education. This curriculum is found in the *Wellness and/or Human Relationships and Sexuality* strands of the Mount Laurel Health Curriculum.

A course outline detailing the subheadings of the family life strands included in this curriculum are attached for your review. You may wish to examine and discuss this information prior to its instruction at school. The curriculum guide is available for review at your child's school through your principal. The principal will also be able to answer any questions you may have about how this program is implemented in your child's classroom.

Parents or guardians who believe that any part of this program is in conflict with their conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs may have their child excused from that portion of the course. A signed statement should be sent to your child's principal. There will be no penalties as to grade, credit or graduation.

Sincerely,

*Sharon Vitella*

Sharon Vitella, Ed. D.  
Assistant Superintendent  
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

attach.



WELLNESS &  
HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY

GRADE K

1. Families
2. Rights and responsibilities of families
3. Correct terminology to identify body parts)

Grade 1

1. Friendship
2. Appropriate ways to show affection and caring
3. Physical differences and similarities of genders

Grade 2

1. Human beings develop inside their birth mother

Grade 3

1. Families typically share common values, provide love, support and set boundaries
2. Healthy relationships are fostered in some families and not others

Grade 4

1. Friends
2. Relationships with family and friends
3. Changes occurring during puberty
4. Fetus/embryo development
5. Reproductive Systems (Science Curriculum)

Grade 5

1. Families change over time
2. Social and emotional health of individuals and families
3. Healthy relationships
4. Growth patterns of males and females during adolescence including changes in body parts (i.e. changes occurring during puberty)

Grade 6

1. Peer relationships during adolescence
2. Dating
3. Abstinence
4. Impact of sexual activity
5. Behaviors that place one at risk for HIV/AIDS, STD's, unwanted pregnancy
6. Differentiate between sexual feelings and acting them out
7. Pregnancy

Grade 7:

For middle school, the NJ State Standards for Family Life to be covered by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade will all be taught in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Seventh Grade covers “Wellness” and “Drugs & Medicine” in health class.

Dating Violence will be defined and students will learn characteristics of healthy relationships.

Grade 8:

1. Marriage and the family in community and society
2. Relationships including family, friends, dating and dating violence awareness/prevention
3. Puberty
4. Abstinence
5. Pressures & impact of adolescent sexual activity
6. HIV/AIDS, STDs, unwanted pregnancy
7. Contraception
8. Sexual orientation
9. Importance of routine healthcare procedures
10. Fertilization and stages of embryonic and fetal development
11. Pregnancy & childbirth
12. Parenting