



Dr. Sharon Vitella, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
330 Mount Laurel Road • Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 • Phone: 856-235-3387 • Fax: 856-235-1837
svitella@mtlaurelschools.org • www.mtlaurelschools.org

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April 2017

Dear Fourth-Grade Parents:

We are about to embark on the fourth-marking period of this school year, as impossible as that may seem, and I would like you to be aware of an upcoming unit in the fourth-grade health curriculum this year. During the next marking period, your child will be participating in the study of the reproductive system in health, with the primary focus on changes occurring during puberty.

A district team including fourth-grade classroom teachers, elementary health and physical education teachers and nurses met to choose appropriate materials and resources for this unit. The health and physical education teacher, school nurse, and classroom teacher will teach the unit collaboratively. For sections of the unit specific to physical changes, girls and boys will be taught in gender-specific grouping.

If you are interested in reviewing the instructional materials, please contact your school principal. The Curriculum Guide for 4th-grade health is available for your review on our district website at: www.mtlaurelschools.org. Under the Program tab, select Curriculum and Assessment and then, Health.

Parents or guardians who believe that any part of this health 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. Alternative activities will be provided, and there will be no penalties as to grade or promotion to fifth grade.

Sincerely,

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