



John Read Middle School  
Jennifer Desmarais, Principal  
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January 9, 2023

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:

As a part of the eighth grade Health curriculum, your student will be viewing the video *The Miracle of Life* on human reproduction. This video is shown in the latter part of the Health semester following classes relating to decision-making, advocating for self and others, and HIV/AIDS.

The video and coinciding curriculum is designed to review the anatomy and physiology of human reproduction, to discuss fetal development, pregnancy, and childbirth. Healthy self-management, decision-making, goal-setting, and advocacy will be discussed as it relates to current information surrounding the topic of teenage pregnancy. After the viewing, there will be a brief discussion and a chance for students to ask questions.

The content of this unit is based on state and national health education standards and the students will remain in their co-ed class sections throughout the instruction. Mr. Indorf is a CT certified health educator. You are welcome to contact Mr. Indorf to discuss the material and preview the video.

While student participation in this health unit is highly recommended, you may choose to exempt your child from this instruction according to Board of Education Policy 6144.1. This policy states that “*if the religious belief and/or teachings of a student or his/her parents or guardian are contrary to the content of a school subject, the student may be exempt from participation.*” **If your child currently has Health (Semester 1), and you would like to receive such an exemption, a parent or guardian must present a written request to Mr. Indorf by January 17, 2023. Please do the same for students taking Health during the second semester by February 1, 2023.** Students who are exempt will research health professions in the Media Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jennifer C. Desmarais'.

Jennifer Desmarais  
Principal

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nathanael Indorf'.

Nathanael Indorf  
Health Education Teacher