



## Sexuality Education Parent Notification

January 28, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This semester your child will receive sexuality education as part of Da Vinci's overall health education curriculum. California state law, the California Healthy Youth Act, requires that comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education be provided to students at least once in middle school or junior high school and once in high school, starting in grade 7.

Instruction must encourage students to communicate with parents, guardians or other trusted adults about human sexuality. Instruction must be medically accurate, age-appropriate and inclusive of all students. It must include the following:

- Information about HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including transmission, FDA approved methods to prevent HIV and STIs, and treatment
- Information that abstinence is the only certain way to prevent unintended pregnancy and HIV and other STIs, and information about value of delaying sexual activity
- Discussion about social views of HIV and AIDS
- Information about accessing resources for sexual and reproductive health care Information about pregnancy, including FDA approved prevention methods, pregnancy outcomes, prenatal care, and the newborn safe surrender law
- Information about sexual orientation and gender, including the harm of negative gender stereotypes
- Information about healthy relationships and avoiding unhealthy behaviors and situations

Da Vinci Schools acknowledge that parents/guardians are the primary sexuality educators for their child/children and we are committed to partnering with you to provide supplementary resources to support you in this role.

On **Tuesday February 11<sup>th</sup>**, 9<sup>th</sup> grade Da Vinci High School students will have the opportunity to see a dramatic performance entitled "What Goes Around." This performance is sponsored by Kaiser Permanente. The play tells the story of five students and how their behavior and connections to each other also connect them to other people who are unknown to them. The play uses visual monitors, text messaging, cellular and computer technology to better reach its audience and to clearly illustrate its message: there are epidemic rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) in the high school age group.

"What Goes Around" provides health information about STDs and students hear the facts and myths about STDs and see how the choices they make have a lasting impact on the lives of other people. The 60-minute play is followed by a 15 minute talkback session in which the actor-educators answer audience questions about sexually transmitted diseases. The key message points of "What Goes Around" are:

- The option of abstinence
- The importance of testing
- Prevention

For more information about the play you can visit their website:

<https://etsoutherncalifornia.kaiserpermanente.org/std-prevention/>



Also happening in conjunction with this play are additional sex ed-health lessons/curriculum. Health lessons will occur in advisory during second semester. Da Vinci Schools has adopted the Teen Talk curriculum which includes the below core components:

- Covers topics of sexual and reproductive anatomy, conception and fetal development, birth control, pregnancy options, STIs and HIV, gender and sexual orientation, media analysis, relationships, sexual crimes, consent, communication and decision-making
- Establishes a foundation for understanding sexual health and common language for communicating respectfully
- Helps students identify resources (e.g., parents/trusted adults, school personnel, healthcare providers)
- Encourages communication with parents/trusted adults, including an interview assignment
- Uses gender inclusive language

More info on the curriculum used can be found here: <https://www.health-connected.org/>

Parents/guardians have the option of excluding their child from sexuality education instruction. If you do not want your child to participate in comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education, please give a written letter to the office. Students who are excused will be assigned study hall for the period. Questions can be directed to the School Nurse, Emily Green at [egreen@davincischools.org](mailto:egreen@davincischools.org).

Sincerely,

Emily Green, RN

School Nurse

[Egreen@davincischools.org](mailto:Egreen@davincischools.org)