

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Your child will be receiving health education at the elementary level. The New Bedford Public Schools health education program adopts the standards of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Frameworks, which is approved by the Board of Education and is approved by the New Bedford School Committee. Your child will be learning life skills to maintain healthy behaviors that can be learned and practiced for a lifetime. We encourage students to discuss the topics presented in class with a caring adult at home.

All taught lessons are age appropriate. The comprehensive health content units of study that will be taught include: social/emotional health, growth and development, disease prevention and control, safety and injury prevention, substance use/abuse prevention, and physical health/nutrition. Key topics include bullying prevention, self-esteem, decision-making and goal setting. It is our hope that healthy life skills will become a part of your child's life commitment.

During class, students will be able to ask questions which will be factually answered in an age-appropriate manner. Each student's privacy will be respected. Students' religious and moral beliefs are respected under Massachusetts' Law and School Committee Policy. If you have any questions regarding the curriculum, please contact your school's health educator. After your discussion, if you still feel you would like to exempt your child, you may write a letter to the principal requesting an exemption for the classes involving sexual health where the student will be sent to an alternate site with an alternate lesson (MGL Chapter 71 Section 32A).

It is our goal as your child's health educator to keep them safe and give them the life skills and knowledge to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Thank you for considering this important matter.

Sincerely,

Health Educator at _____ (School), Phone: _____

Thomas M. Tarpey

Director of Athletics, Phys. Ed, and Health

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