

Office of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
Deborah Basler, Supervisor
Physical Education, Health Education & Interscholastic Athletics

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To meet state requirements for comprehensive health education instructional programs, all elementary students will be given the opportunity to participate in the Family Life and Human Sexuality Unit as part of their fifth-grade health education curriculum. All materials utilized in this unit have been approved by the Family Life Committee, a state mandated, and Harford County Public Schools Board of Education sponsored committee.

This unit will cover:

- healthy relationships and consent
- interpersonal relationships and responsible behavior
- puberty and hygiene
- the male and female reproduction systems, including fertilization

The Family Life and Human Sexuality Unit includes more than information on anatomy and reproduction. It also emphasizes getting along with family and peers and prepares students for the physical and emotional changes which occur as they approach adolescence.

During the Family Life and Human Sexuality Unit your child will view gender specific video segments which provide an overview of growth and development at puberty. Students will remain in their regularly assigned classes during the viewing of these video segments. Many schools opt to order, from the video producer, personal product packets which are sent home with students following the video viewing.

The HCPS procedure for family life curriculum review or unit opt out is as follows:

1. Contact **[TEACHER NAME]** at **[EMAIL ADDRESS/SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER]** by **[DATE]** to request a phone or in person meeting to discuss concerns and review curricular materials
2. A phone or in person meeting may be scheduled to discuss concerns and review curricular materials.
3. If appropriate, Parent or Caregiver provides a written request to the teacher to opt child out of individual lessons or entirety of the unit within three days of the parent meeting. Students not participating in the unit will be provided with appropriate alternative health education assignments.
4. If additional questions or concerns remain after the above steps, email AskHCPS@hcps.org or call at 410-809-6193 so your question can be directed to the appropriate individual or specific office.