



Mesquite Independent School District

Linda Henrie, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Fall 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The MISD **high school health** course includes objectives dealing with a variety of topics. One of the topics is human growth and sexuality including the transmission of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). This objective is part of the essential knowledge and skills that the Texas Education Agency requires for instruction. You may view a copy of the Texas essential knowledge and skills for health from which these objectives were developed at www.tea.state.tx.us.

Our district's School Health Advisory Council composed of parents, teachers and administrators has approved the curriculum and the instructional materials used in this course as age-appropriate for high school students. Specifically, the local course objectives dealing with human growth and sexuality are listed as follows:

- The student will understand the consequences of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS on long-term health.
- The student will demonstrate a basic knowledge of behaviors that contribute to mental health and emotional well-being.
- The student will demonstrate a basic understanding of the structure and function of the reproductive system.

The School Health Advisory Council has also approved a teen dating violence program, **Expect Respect** that may be included in the course. This program is designed to raise individual awareness about violence within the dating relationship, healthy relationships and how society and the world around us affects our understanding about relationships.

Parenting and Paternity Awareness (P.A.P.A.) is taught in the high school health course. The goal of P.A.P.A. is to promote responsible parenthood, a basic understanding of paternity and child support laws, and encourage involvement of fathers and the formation of strong, stable families. It should be noted that P.A.P.A. is not a sex education curriculum.

If you have any questions regarding the health curriculum, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Health Teacher

*Revised August 2009

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