



ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL
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May 23, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of a new unit that we will be teaching called ***Best Practices in STD/HIV and Pregnancy Prevention***. The curriculum has an emphasis on **abstinence, communication with partners, and STD and teen pregnancy prevention**. This curriculum was co-authored by Maine Family Planning and the Maine Department of Education. *Best Practices* is being used in health classes across Maine to teach teens about healthy sexuality. This unit contains a variety of interactive methods that give teens the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to make sexually responsible decisions. I am very aware that the topic of human sexuality is a sensitive and controversial one. I will take great care to conduct classes with heightened sensitivity for the well-being and comfort of each student.

The unit will focus on helping each student gain the knowledge and communication skills needed to prevent pregnancy and the transmission of STDs and HIV/AIDS. Abstinence will be given as the safest choice for the student, but students will be provided with accurate information about other protection methods and also given access to some of these methods. There is information on the teen brain and sexual decision making. There will be some short videos included in the unit. If you would like to view any of these lessons, videos or the curriculum, they are available on www.maineconomyplanning.org. This curriculum is aligned with the National Sexuality Education Standards and the Maine Learning Results.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to meet to discuss this curriculum further, please contact me. We will be starting this unit the week of May 30th. **If you do NOT want your child to participate in this unit, please let me know as soon as possible.**

Sincerely,

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