

Mary M. Knight School District

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May 2, 2022

Dear Mary M. Knight Families,

This letter is to remind you that we make health education a priority at Mary M. Knight School. Students in grades five through 8 will learn information, as required by law, about the risks of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV and AIDS. This instruction will be provided during the week of May 9th. To provide our students with quality instruction on this topic, we will be utilizing the KNOW curriculum, which was developed by the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction's office, ensuring that medically and scientifically accurate information is presented. All of this information is presented by trained staff in a safe and comfortable environment.

The topic of STDs and HIV can be sensitive. Please also know that our staff is trained to lead discussions that recognize values-based questions. When these questions arise, our teachers do not share their opinions. Instead, they help the students to recognize that some health, relationship, and sexual choices are determined by the norms of your culture and family. In light of this, we hope that you will be a partner in your child's education during these units of study.

You can review the KNOW curriculum at our administrative offices any time after May 2nd or visit OSPI at: <https://www.k12.wa.us/>.

Even if you are choosing not to have your child participate in this learning program, recognize that students tend to talk about this content throughout the school day. Your child will likely receive second-hand information. Previewing the curriculum in advance will help you respond to any questions your child may have.

If you intend to have your child opt out of portions of the STD/HIV prevention unit, please contact your child's teacher or your principal's office as soon as possible for an opt-out form. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Linda Warren, RN
School Nurse