

APPENDIX: A **SAMPLE LETTER – TO BE PRINTED ON SCHOOL LETTERHEAD**

Date:

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The DDSB is committed to providing equitable and inclusive learning environments that promotes student achievement and well-being. Human Development and Sexual Health Education (Grades 1 – 8) is an important part of the Health and Physical Education Curriculum. As outlined in the curriculum, Human Development and Sexual Health Education includes many topics and concepts and is more than teaching young people about anatomy and physiology of reproduction –. Sexual development is one part of overall human development. Learning about healthy human development begins at an early age. Educators teach these topics sensitively, in age and developmentally appropriate ways, and with respect for individual differences. The expectations discussed in Health and Physical Education Curriculum are summarized in this chart:

Human Development and Sexual Health Summary: Expectations – Curriculum document, 2019

GRADE 1	Strand D Section: D1.3 Body parts; D1.4 Senses and functions; D2.5 Hygienic procedures
GRADE 2	D1.4 Stages of development; D1.5 Body appreciation; D2.4 Oral health
GRADE 3	D1.4 Healthy relationships, bullying, consent; D1.5 Physical and social- emotional development D3.3 Visible, invisible differences, respect
GRADE 4	D1.5 Puberty – changes; emotional, social impact; D2.4 Puberty – personal hygiene and care
GRADE 5	D1.3 Reproductive system; D1.4 Menstruation, spermatogenesis; D2.4 Self-concept, sexual orientation; D2.5 Emotional, interpersonal stresses - puberty
GRADE 6	D1.3 Sexually explicit media; D2.5 Understanding puberty changes, healthy relationships; D2.6 Decision making, consent; D3.3 Stereotypes and assumptions – impacts and strategies for responding
GRADE 7	D1.3 Delaying sexual activity; D1.4 Sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (STBBIs) D1.5 STBBIs and pregnancy prevention; D2.4 Sexual health and decision making; D3.3 Relationship changes at puberty
GRADE 8	D1.4 Decisions about sexual activity, supports; D1.5 Gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, self- concept; D2.3 Decision making considerations and skills; D3.3 Relationships and intimacy

Your child's class will be learning the Human Development and Sexual Health part of the Health and Physical Education Curriculum for their specific grade starting on

_____ [insert date] and ending on _____
[insert date]. The daily schedule for this instruction is attached.

For more information including the complete Health and Physical Education Curriculum and Parent Guides visit the Ministry of Education websites:

Grades 1 to 8:

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/2019-health-physical-education-grades-1to8.pdf

You can request that your child not learn about or participate in this part of the curriculum. This is called an “exemption.” To request an exemption, you must return the form attached to the principal at least 5 days before this part of the curriculum is taught. Requests for exemptions cannot be made by phone. Exemption forms or written requests that do not have the student's parent/guardian's signature cannot be accepted. Exempted students will be given another learning activity in a supervised area at school while the content is being taught or released into the care of the parent/guardian (or their approved designate). The removal of the child from the class will be done sensitively and without academic penalty. Students to be exempted will be done on an individual basis according to the following conditions:

- Exemptions can only be made for instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations found in strand D of The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1–8, 2019. Students will not be exempted from instruction related to any other expectations in this curriculum or related to expectations in other curriculum subjects.
- Exemptions will be only for instruction related to **all** the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in a student's grade, and not for instruction related to selected expectations or groups of expectations.
- References to human development and sexual health made by teachers, educators, board staff, or students outside the intentional teaching of content related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations are not included in the exemption procedure.
- There will be no academic penalty for an exemption.
- There will be no assessment, evaluation, or reporting of exempted students' achievement of Human Development and Sexual Health expectations in their particular grade. Exempted students' grade in health and physical education will be based on the overall expectations in strand D (grades 1-8), without the specific expectations under Human Development and Sexual Health.

In the case of an unforeseen event and we have to move the period of instruction for the Human Development and Sexual Health curriculum component to a later date in the school year, we will provide you with this information and new date as soon as reasonably possible.

If you have concerns or questions about what will be taught in the elementary Health and Physical Education curriculum, we encourage you to reach out to the school. There are often pieces that are miscommunicated in the community about what is or isn't taught within the curriculum. The best place to seek clarification and reassurance is from the school team.

Yours truly,

Principal