Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

In response to the growing threat of HIV to our population, the Washington State Legislature mandated that a program of prevention education be presented yearly to students beginning in the fifth grade. The Camas School District has adopted an appropriate program for HIV prevention/human growth and development education with the advice of educators, parents, and community members. Classroom presentations of the “Family Life and Sexual Health (F.L.A.S.H.)” curriculum will begin in late February for 7th/8th grade, and in late April for 6th graders. This new curriculum complies with the state standards, which state that curriculum must “include both abstinence and other contraceptive information” (ESSB 5297). The following are accurate depictions of the content that will be presented during this health unit.

- Health and fitness teachers will provide information about both the benefits of abstinence as well as medically accurate information about contraception.
- Health and fitness teachers emphasize that abstinence is the only 100% effective method of avoiding pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.
- While factual information about contraception is shared with students it is not explicitly promoted nor is there specific instruction on how to use various methods.
- Information that is taught is medically and scientifically accurate.
- Information is age and gender appropriate.

If you would like an opportunity to preview the F.L.A.S.H. curriculum and materials please make an appointment with the school’s main office to schedule a convenient time. In addition to the F.L.A.S.H curriculum there is a supplementary program from AWARE called Foundations for 7th and 8th grade students that are available to review. Reviewing the curriculum enables you and your child to have meaningful family discussions before and after the curriculum is delivered. Below we have included a basic outline of the goals of our curriculum. We look forward to being partners with you in your child’s human growth and development education. Feel free to contact the school or if you have any questions.

Parents who wish to have their child OPT OUT from the F.L.A.S.H curriculum must review the materials and sign a release form. Release forms will be available in the school office. An assignment will be given for the student to complete in the library during regularly scheduled health class days. This assignment will take the place of the grades earned in class.

Curriculum Goals

6th grade:
- Basic anatomy and physiology of the reproductive systems.
- Identify and understand the physical and emotional changes in their bodies.
- Overview of HIV/AIDS; what it is, myths, how it’s spread, how to keep yourself safe.

7th grade:
- Review of anatomy and physiology of the reproductive systems.
- Basic overviews of sexually transmitted infections with focus on Hepatitis A, B & C.
- Fetal Development.
- AWARE “Foundations” presentation (awareprogram.net). An abstinence-based presentation empowering teens to make healthier decisions in relationships.

8th grade:
- In depth review of sexually transmitted infections.
- Contraceptive methods.
- Understanding the possible physical, emotional and social outcomes of sexual relationships including parenthood.
- Communication skills.