



Hope Township School

Mrs. Mary Jane Weigly
School Nurse
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Dear Parent/Guardian of a Kindergarten to Grade 4 Student,

New Jersey mandates a Family Life Education. Our staff has worked to develop a curriculum that is appropriate for our younger students and aligns with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. The teachers include health topics in their syllabus, but there are some topics in this curriculum that we believe requires some focused attention to: developmental-appropriateness, consistency in terms used, and parent awareness.

In relation to the discussion of physical human body parts, Hope teachers will use the correct terminology to refer to one's physical parts. Through staff training from the Rutgers Family Life Network, it is our goal to not confuse children by using "different" terms, and also it has been shown that children that utilize the correct terminology when referring to their body, are less likely preyed upon by child sex offenders.

Discussion regarding "*What is family to you?*" is a topic that is very important to children. Hope School defines "family" as, "A unit that provides love, security and members that often reside in the same home." Society today has many different members in a family, and our teaching staff does not condone or condemn any family unit structure, rather simply recognizes/acknowledges them.

Parents/Guardians have the right to remove their child from specified topics of the Family Life classes that they might consider objectionable or inappropriate. Please submit this request in writing to the attention of Mrs. Weigly. However, please know that our teachers may be presented with unexpected moments, where they utilize the correct terminology in class.

Our intent in sharing this curricular focus with you is to provide awareness of how the teachers will handle these topics at their teaching level. It is our goal to work with you to share the responsibility of educating your children.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Weigly
School Nurse