

Charles Glaes, Superintendent
Vicksburg Community Schools

September

Dear Parents:

The Board of Education has established a program in reproductive health and sexually transmitted infections (including HIV/AIDS) through the Sex Education Advisory Committee. Members of this committee, representing parents, the community, educators, clergy, and health care professionals, meet periodically to review and recommend program updates and revisions. Their recommendations are then forwarded to the Board of Education for approval. This committee has been in operation since 1984, and the curriculum has been in place since 1988, with annual reviews and updates. We thank the many conscientious parents and citizens who have served our students through this important advisory panel.

State laws governing Health Education requires parent notification and review of the curriculum. I have described below the means provided by the Vicksburg Schools to assist parents and/or legal guardians in exercising their parental options under the most recent legislative guidelines.

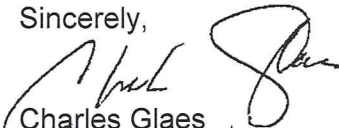
Enclosed with this letter, you will find a summary for the specific areas of instruction provided at each grade level. Instruction relating to Reproductive Health (including sexually transmitted infections) will not begin until after October 6th in grades 7 and 9. Elementary instruction will take place in the spring of 2015. Notification will be sent home with all 4th and 5th graders prior to instruction.

Parents and/or legal guardians who wish to review the materials and specific outcomes for each grade level or course should contact their child's building principal rather than the Superintendent's office. Parents may make arrangements to observe the instruction their children receive in reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases. Parents may use the form on the back of this letter if they wish to have their child excused from any portion of the reproductive health curriculum. The exclusion form should be returned to your child's building principal by October 6, 2014.

It is our intent to assist parents in every way possible in understanding their child's education program. Please use this notification letter to assist you in reviewing the Vicksburg Reproductive Health Education Program and feel free to contact your child's building principal for any further information. You will find their names and phone numbers listed below:

Indian Lake Elementary	Ruth Hook	321-1400/649-2159
Sunset Lake Elementary	Pat Moreno	321-1500/649-2632
Tobey Elementary	Mike Barwegen	321-1600
Vicksburg Middle School	Laura Kuhlman	321-1300/649-0552
Vicksburg High School	Keevin O'Neill	321-1100/649-0554

Sincerely,


Charles Glaes
Superintendent

Traditions in Excellence

301 S. Kalamazoo Avenue ▪ Vicksburg, MI ▪ (269)321-1000 phone (269)321-1055 fax

**Reproductive Health Curriculum
Including Sexually Transmitted Infections (HIV/AIDS)
Parent Request to Exclude Student from Instruction**

- My child may be included in this instruction. (No need to return this form to school).
- My child will be “opted out” of the instruction only for the outlined instruction on the attachment.
- My child will be “opted out” of the instruction outlined on the attachment and all future sexuality education/HIV instruction until I further notify the principal of my child’s school.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Building: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

**VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
HUMAN GROWTH DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM**

Content	Grades K - 3
Body Awareness	Respect/Protect Privacy of One's Own Body
Disease Prevention	Spreading and prevention of germs; universal precautions

Content	Grade 4	Grade 5
HIV/AIDS	1) Define HIV/AIDS 2) Spreading and prevention of germs; universal precautions 3) Treating others with respect	1) Transmission and Prevention (bloodborne) 2) Damage to immune system and effective treatments 3) Treating others with respect
Reproductive Anatomy	Own gender reproductive anatomy instruction provided separately by gender.	Both genders reproductive anatomy instruction provided separately by gender.
Puberty/Body Changes	Own gender introductory video on basic physical and emotional changes.	Both genders video on physical and emotional changes prior to and during puberty.

Content	Grade 7	Grade 9
HIV/AIDS/STI's	1) Recognizing Signs and Symptoms 2) Transmission and Prevention (bodily fluids) 3) Bacteria vs. Virus 4) Identify common STI's (Sexually Transmitted Infections)	1) Testing and treatment 2) Community Based Resources and Services 3) Disease Prevention 4) Increase the student's awareness of risky behaviors and situations. 5) Facts and Myths
Sex Education (see note at bottom of page)	1) Discuss the benefits of abstaining from sex until marriage and the benefits of ceasing sex if a pupil is sexually active. 2) Include a discussion of the possible emotional, economic, and legal consequences of sex. 3) Stress that unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections are serious possibilities of sex that are not fully preventable except by abstinence.	1) Discuss the benefits of abstaining from sex until marriage and the benefits of ceasing sex if a pupil is sexually active. 2) Include a discussion of the possible emotional, economic, and legal consequences of sex. 3) Stress that unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections are serious possibilities of sex that are not fully preventable except by abstinence.

**VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
HUMAN GROWTH DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM**

	<p>4) Teach students how to say 'no' to sexual advances and that it is wrong to take advantage of, harass, or exploit another person sexually.</p> <p>5) Teach that the student has the power to control personal behavior. Students shall be taught to base their actions on reasoning, self-discipline, a sense of responsibility, self-control, and ethical considerations such as respect for self and others.</p> <p>6) Teach refusal skills and encourage students to resist pressure to engage in risky behavior.</p> <p>7) Provide instruction on healthy dating relationships and on how to set limits and recognize a dangerous environment.</p>	<p>4) Teach students how to say 'no' to sexual advances and that it is wrong to take advantage of, harass, or exploit another person sexually.</p> <p>5) Teach that the student has the power to control personal behavior. Students shall be taught to base their actions on reasoning, self-discipline, a sense of responsibility, self-control, and ethical considerations such as respect for self and others.</p> <p>6) Teach refusal skills and encourage students to resist pressure to engage in risky behavior.</p> <p>7) Provide instruction on healthy dating relationships and on how to set limits and recognize a dangerous environment.</p>
Reproductive Anatomy	<p>1) Male and Female Anatomy</p> <p>2) Structures and Functions of Male and Female reproductive systems.</p> <p>3) Body Awareness</p> <p>4) Disease Prevention</p>	<p>1) Review Male and Female Anatomy</p> <p>2) Medical Screening and Healthcare</p> <p>3) Societal Pressures</p> <p>4) Human Development</p> <p>5) Teen Pregnancy</p> <p>6) Pre-natal development</p>
Puberty/Body Changes	<p>1) Endocrine System</p> <p>2) Emotional, Social, and Physical Changes</p> <p>3) Health Pyramid</p> <p>4) Basic hygiene and self-care</p> <p>5) Menstruation and Fertilization</p>	<p>1) Review Body Systems and Health Pyramid</p> <p>3) Discuss myths and 'norms'</p>
Other	<p>1) Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Program (Gryphon Place)</p> <p>2) Substance Abuse and its connection with choices and sexual behavior</p>	<p>1) Review impact and connection of alcohol and other drugs with pregnancy and STI's</p>

*Instruction in the Sex Education unit is compliant under section 380.1507 which mandates that 'the only 100% method of birth control and STD prevention is abstinence.'