FAMILY LIFE PHILOSOPHY

The Newport News Schools Family Life Education program is based on the premise that parents should be the primary providers of the information and values of family life and human sexuality. We recognize, however, that changes in our society have placed a high premium on providing adequate information so that every child can make wholesome decisions in life. Accordingly, we believe that this need for information can best be met through a partnership among students, parents, schools, and the community. The Family Life Education program ensures that Newport News Public Schools do their part in this important partnership.

We believe that the content of the Family Life curriculum should be age appropriate, medically accurate and sequential. In addition to anatomy and physiology of reproduction of plants, animals, and humans, the curriculum includes many other important issues. These include self-esteem, self-control, positive decision-making, goal-setting, family values, peer respect, communication skills, and responsible parenting. We emphasize the family values of caring for one’s self and one’s family, and teach the value of recognizing the worth of every individual and of being honest. We believe that sexual relations are best delayed until after marriage. Therefore, our curriculum emphasizes abstinence from premarital sex.

The assistance of the Family Life Education Advisory Committee (made up of representatives of health, medical, religious, and community agencies and groups) has been invaluable in the development of the current Family Life Education program. We recognize the need for community input to be an ongoing component of the program as it is modified and revised. It is our hope that the program that has been implemented in the Newport News Public Schools will enrich the lives of our students and aid them in achieving their full potential as individuals and as members of families and the community.

Family Life Education lessons are taught at various times throughout the entire school year. Parents and guardians have the right to review the Family Life Education program offered by their school division, including written and audio-visual educational materials used in the program. Parents and guardians also have the right to excuse their child from all or part of Family Life Education instruction. If a parent does not want his or her child to participate in the program, the school should be notified in writing.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, & HIGH SCHOOL
Lessons by Family Life Education Specialists in Elementary*, Middle & High Schools

Grade K
Germ awareness and appropriate actions +
The importance of family relationships and support +
The privacy of one’s own body and awareness of the differences between good and bad touches +

Grade 1
Germ awareness and appropriate actions +
Tips to promote personal safety +
The privacy of one’s own body and awareness of the differences between good and bad touches +

Grade 2
Germ awareness and disease prevention +
Assertiveness, safety skills, and stranger awareness. This includes awareness and strategies needed to avoid exploitation & abuse +

Grade 3
Germ awareness and disease prevention +
Awareness and strategies needed to avoid exploitation and abuse +
Correct terminology for body parts, including private body parts *
The privacy of one’s own body parts *
It takes both a mother and a father to make a baby and a baby develops inside the mother’s womb and the baby has an umbilical cord. *
The importance of healthy nutrition *

Grade 4
Awareness of “stranger danger” and ways to stay safe +
Awareness of and responding to various types of harassment +

Grade 5
Awareness and strategies to prevent exploitation and abuse +
Review of puberty and reproductive anatomy and functions *
Reproduction of animals and humans *
Heredity and its basic principles *
Fetal development *
Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS *
Responsibility and abstinence *

Boys and Girls are separated for these classes. *
Classroom teacher-taught lessons. +

Parents seeking Family Life Information for Elementary School contact Health Services – 591-4646 or 283-7850 Ext. 10307 or email: Susan.Devane@nn.k12.va.us and Nancy.Adams@nn.k12.va.us

Indicate your child’s school and grade as well as your question and the Specialist will get back with you.
Grade 6 – Boys and Girls are separated for these classes
Good hygiene and health practices
Physical and emotional changes experienced in puberty
Anatomy and physiology of the reproductive system
Correction of myths about puberty and reproduction
Benefits of abstinence
Communications with parents and other trusted adults
Respect for self and others
Awareness and prevention of sexual harassment and sexual abuse
Transmission and prevention of HIV / AIDS and other STIs
Decision-making skills and problem solving

Grade 7 – Boys and Girls are separated for these classes
Review of reproduction and puberty
Benefits of abstinence as well as benefits of postponing pregnancy until marriage
Developing healthy decision-making skills
Transmission and prevention of STIs, HIV / AIDS
Effects of media and peers on relationships
Awareness of sexting and internet safety precautions
Respect for self and others
Appreciation of individual differences
Awareness and prevention of sexual harassment / sexual abuse
Developing positive relationships with family and friends
Communication with family and other trusted adults

Grade 8 – Boys and Girls are separated for these classes
Self-awareness and developing personal identity
Appreciation of individual differences
Effects of media and peers on personal identity
Risk-taking and its impact on life choices
Personal responsibility
Respect for self and others
Awareness and prevention of sexual harassment / sexual abuse
Communication with parents and other trusted adults
Communication in relationships with peers
Benefits of abstinence and postponing pregnancy until marriage
Methods of contraception
Transmission, prevention and treatments of STIs and HIV / AIDS

High School Family Life Topics –
*Boys and girls are separated for these classes:

Health I
Male and Female reproductive systems
Breast/Testicular self-examination*
Respect and responsibility in a relationship
Benefits of abstinence before marriage
Family planning and contraception
Issues regarding teen/single parenthood
Transmission, prevention and treatment of STDs and HIV/AIDS
STD/HIV/AIDS statistics and prevalence
Local, national, and global impact of HIV/AIDS pandemic
Refusal skills and delay tactics

Health II
Respect, responsibility and goal setting
Communication and relationships
Benefits of abstinence before marriage
Emotional maturity in dating, engagement, and marriage
Characteristics of successful marriages
Planning for children in a marriage/responsible parenthood
Prevention of emotional/physical/sexual abuse
Human development from conception to birth
Pregnancy and childbirth
Medical resources
Responsible parenthood

Parents seeking Family Life information for Middle & High School contact Health & PE – 283-7850 ext 10241.