

Dear Parents or Guardians,

During the last few weeks of eighth grade, science classes will be presenting California Health Standards as required as by California Education Code 51930-51939 (www.cde.ca.gov). We will be using Positive Prevention teaching materials developed through the American Red Cross. The curriculum addresses many of the issues students face or may face in high school and throughout their lives.

The goals of this program are:

- Examine the effectiveness of abstinence in preventing HIV, other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and unintended pregnancy.
- To examine the effectiveness of FDA approved contraceptives in preventing unintended pregnancy, HIV, and other STDs.
- To identify ways to prevent or reduce the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.
- To increase understanding of the benefits of respecting individual differences in growth, development, body image, gender roles, and sexual orientation.
- To foster dating relationships based on mutual respect and self-discipline, develop refusal strategies for unwanted sexual involvement and recognize the consequences of inappropriate use of social media.
- To examine responsible parenting and pre-natal care, including California's Safe Haven Law.
- To identify trusted adults from family, school, and community for advice and counseling regarding reproductive and sexual health.
- To demonstrate the ability to use goal setting skills to make healthy choices and avoid high risk behaviors.
- To locate medically and scientifically accurate sources of information.

We realize that this is an area which is very personal and encourage families to handle this in a manner they feel most comfortable. If you have questions or wish to view the program materials in advance, you may contact your child's principal or teacher, as well as the San Marcos Unified School District Office. You may learn more about the Red Cross Positive Prevention materials at www.positiveprevention.com.

A parent has the right to excuse their child from all or part of the sexual health education, HIV/AIDS prevention education, and any assignments or assessments related to such education. To excuse your child please notify the school principal in writing.

Sincerely,



Melissa Hunt
Director, Secondary Education