



Lori Lang
Principal
Lori Burnham
Assistant Principal

Lowell Public Schools
J.G. Pyne Arts Magnet School
145 Boylston Street
Lowell, MA 01852



Tel: 978-937-7639
Fax: 978-446-0942

October 2, 2023

Dear parents,

I am reaching out to make you aware that in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 32A, the Lowell School Committee has adopted a policy that outlines the rights of parents and guardians of students in relation to curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues (Student handbook page J-4).

I am providing you with an outline of the grades 5-8 curriculum (see attached link) and a means for opting your child out of the human sexuality lessons (see attached link), if so desired. The health education course will include skills development and lessons on mental and social emotional health; nutrition and physical activity; safety and violence prevention; alcohol, nicotine, and other drug prevention; and human sexuality (varies by grade level).

Dr. Beth Williams-Breault, our experienced Health Educator, and I am confident she will deliver this very important content in a professional and appropriate manner. After review of the scope and sequence, if you would like to opt your child out of the human sexuality focused lessons, please complete the attached opt-out form and return it to the school by Tuesday, October 10, 2023. If you have any questions about the health education course or human sexuality lessons, please e-mail BWilliams-Breault@lowell.k12.ma.us.

Thank you,

Lori A. Lang
Interim Principal

Links for Paper copy:

Scope and Sequence Link- (Live links can be found on the Pyne Arts web page or in the Playbill Newsletter)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zdSK_BgzBhCkPfLj6o8MPudWx0rkscPA8s_r6FWV3Mg/edit

Opt-out form:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zrc1VQBzZ9rwAZDFb68RuctGj1IR4JO7W7OehNC6D1g/edit>

**ELECTRONIC COPIES OF ALL FORMS
ARE ALL AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE AND IN THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As part of middle school health classes, students will have lessons on sex education.

Under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 32A and the corresponding policy adopted by the Lowell School Committee, parents may exempt their child(ren) from those lessons that involve human sexual education without penalty. Students not participating in the scheduled sex education classes will be provided alternative assignments during class time in a separate class setting.

To exempt your child(ren) out of sex education classes, please return this form to your child's school.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's building principal.

_____ I am opting/exempting my child out of those sex education classes

Today's date: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Child's date of birth: _____

Fall 2023

Dear Caregivers and Families,

At Pyne Arts, Health classes include skills and lessons on mental and social emotional health; nutrition and physical activity; safety and violence prevention; alcohol, nicotine, and other drugs prevention; and human sexuality. Comprehensive Sex Education lessons for students in grades 5-8 will start this fall and include medically accurate, standards-based information about human sexuality that are appropriate for your child's age. The scope and sequence is [here](#). The curriculum is designed to help students maintain their health and safety by learning about puberty, sexual orientation, and gender identity; developing healthy relationships; preventing disease and pregnancy; learning about state laws; and reducing risky behaviors.

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 32A, the Lowell School Committee has adopted [this policy](#) (p. J-4) on the rights of parents and guardians of our students in relation to curriculum that primarily involves human sexuality issues. Parents/guardians may exempt their child from any portion of the curriculum without penalty to the student by sending a letter to the school Principal requesting an exemption. Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment. Parents/guardians may also arrange with the Principal a time to review program materials.

As in all areas, parents and guardians are a child's first and most influential teachers. Parents, guardians and schools share a common goal: we want students of all ages to be safe and healthy in all aspects of their lives. We respect that Pyne students and their families have a range of beliefs, cultures, and customs. If you have specific questions about individual lessons, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Beth D. Williams-Breault, Ed.D.

K-8 Health Teacher

Pyne Arts Magnet School

bwilliams-breault@lowell.k12.ma.us