March 1, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Burlingame School District offers a course of study on sexual health for 7th and 8th graders. This course uses up-to-date and medically accurate health information to address many of the health issues students may face in their lifetime. The School District highly recommends that all 7th and 8th graders participate in the course, but understands that values regarding this topic vary among families.

This sexual health course is guided by several state laws (EdCode 51933) including teaching that abstinence from sexual intercourse is the only 100% effective protection against unwanted teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Abstinence will be stressed, though other forms of prevention and their effectiveness will be discussed, as required by State laws. The curriculum used was developed through the Burlingame School District’s Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment and uses materials developed by the American Red Cross (Positive Prevention) and Health Connected’s TeenTalk for Middle School. Classes will be taught during science classes April 10 through April 28, 2017.

It is required that parents or guardians be notified prior to instruction and be offered the opportunity to withhold their child’s participation by submitting an opt-out letter of notification. Students not participating in the instruction will be given other academic assignments to be completed during the class period in the school office. All written or audiovisual materials to be used in this instruction will be available for inspection in the school office or online at http://www.bsd.k12.ca.us/sexeducation. We invite you to learn more about the curriculum and to review the class materials during a parent information meeting on March 22, 6:00 to 7:00 PM, in room 2-1. Teachers and administrators will be on hand to answer any questions.

To withhold your child’s participation, please send a letter to your child’s science teacher by Friday, April 7, 2017 stating your child’s name, your desire to withhold your child from the sex education courses, your contact information, and your signature.

Sincerely,

Dennis Hills