

Curriculum Human Sexuality Policy

We believe parents own the fundamental responsibility for their children's education, which includes the areas of morality and sexuality. The School's role, at most, should be viewed as a supportive one. It is apparent that sexuality is more than biology and physiology. It also includes morality, spirituality, and the emotions. Because it is a part of the whole human experience, it must be taught with respect and sensitivity.

We believe children are naturally modest concerning their bodies and are not ready to learn everything at once. They are naturally curious, however, and need to get answers to their questions in a way appropriate to their stage of development. In teaching this topic, we want to minimize the embarrassment associated with it for both children and parents.

Teaching Human Sexuality

We will teach the Core Knowledge Sequence in the 5th grade, which includes a discussion on the reproductive organs and reproduction. The class will be taught in a gender-separated environment. Parents will have the opportunity to preview the materials the class will be reading, on which the discussion is based. Parents will also have the opportunity to attend a meeting with the teacher(s) prior to the section on sexuality. Sexual intercourse will only be discussed in the context of a monogamous relationship between two people of opposite sexes. Parents will have the choice of having their children opt out of this portion of the class, which will be taught during the regular science time.

In the upper school, themes that deal with sexuality may emerge from the reading of a serious text, such as *Anna Karenina* or *Brave New World* or *The Scarlet Letter*. When these topics do emerge from the curriculum itself, teachers will adhere to the school philosophy as described in this handbook. Teachers will engage the material in a serious way.

The purpose is not to claim that "Hester Prynne could be just as happy as a single mother," or that "Greek culture proves that homosexuality is an appropriate sexual preference," or any other such highly contestable claims that violate our policies. When in doubt over the teaching of an issue, the teacher should always consult the Principal.

In the higher grades, students may be involved in discussions concerning sexuality and sexual restraint as these issues affect their living a moral and responsible life. The Principal or a faculty member who has the full confidence of the Principal in these matters will always lead such discussions. Moreover, parents will always be notified of these discussions before they take place in case parents wish their children to opt out. In addition, as mandated by the state, sex education must be taught in the high school in the context of human health. Just as in the elementary school, sex education will be taught in a gender-separated environment. Sexuality

will be taught as an aspect of a monogamous marriage, and the moral and physical consequences of promiscuous sex will be made plain.

Character education is part of our program. Sexuality involves serious moral decision-making. It is important to help children build the capacity to make and abide by sound moral choices. We would like our teaching of human reproduction to be a springboard to initiate and facilitate discussions between parents and children on this sensitive subject.

Communicated Principles

Sexuality in practice is best accompanied by marital commitment and fidelity.

Premarital abstinence is a positive, practical, achievable lifestyle that promotes self-control, self-respect, respect for others, responsibility, maturity, and good health.

Abstinence prior to marriage is the only 100% safe approach to sex physically, emotionally, morally, and spiritually.

The sex education program in the high school will include discussion on sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS), condoms (only with respect to their limited effectiveness in prevention of sexually transmitted diseases), and fetal development.

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