



Dear Parent or Guardian:

HIV and AIDS are among the most serious health problems Americans have ever faced. Advances in medicine now allow people with HIV to live long and healthy lives, but there is still no cure. Health education plays a critical role in helping students learn to make healthy choices and to protect themselves and others.

The New York State Education Department and New York City Public Schools require that HIV education be taught annually to all students in kindergarten through grade 12, as part of comprehensive health education. This year, your child will have the opportunity to learn from a new curriculum, called Growing Up and Staying Safe, that is medically accurate, inclusive, age-appropriate, and developed in partnership with national experts, local community leaders, parents/caregivers, and educators.

In the elementary grades, students learn how to stay healthy and avoid illnesses, develop self-worth and respect for their bodies, advocate for kindness and empathy, and communicate with trusted adults. Please review the included grade level overview(s) to learn more about the lessons. You can access them here: <https://www.weteachnyc.org/resources/collection/grades-k-6-hiv-parent-notification-letters-growing-up-and-staying-safe/>

We respect your role as parents/guardians in teaching your child about healthy behaviors that support your family's beliefs and values. We encourage you to discuss with your child what they are learning in health class and share your beliefs and values with them.

Parents, guardians, and schools share a common goal: we want students of all ages to be healthy in all aspects of their lives. We encourage you to speak to your child's teacher, parent coordinator, or me if you'd like to learn more about the curriculum. If you have any questions, please call me at 718.352.7800.

Sincerely,

Grace Lee-Sim

Principal

