Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your child is currently enrolled in the elective Family and Consumer Sciences class, Parents and Children. This class has three main parts: examining families and parenting; conception, prenatal development and child birth; and child care, development and the parents’ role. The class is designed to give student a strong foundation of the important role that parents play in the family unit, prompting them to consider their own lives and what they need to accomplish before the undertake this major responsibility. I will also give them a concrete understanding of how humans reproduce and the delicate science of fetal development. With those learning objectives accomplished the students will then learn about how a child grows and learns from birth to school age and, again, examining the important roles a parent plays at this stage of a child’s life. In each of the parts of the class, the students will be encouraged to think about and develop values and concepts to help guide future decisions. Students will be provided with age-appropriate, medically accurate information to support their learning process throughout the class.

To help with the success of this learning experience, I invite and encourage you to communicate and ask your child about the topics covered in this class. Parents/guardians play a critical role in helping their teens make quality and value based decisions, and communication is the key. Open discussion with your teen can help to answer their questions and voice your concerns and thoughts. If you need help or suggestions on approaching conversations with your teen, please contact me, I have some ideas to try and help.

Several times throughout the semester I will be sending home assignments or permission slips with your child to be completed, signed and returned. A couple assignments will ask questions about decisions you made to get pregnant and have a child, things you remember about being pregnant and giving birth (or if you are the father – what perspective you have about these topics), and also about early parenting experiences. Your child will also have the opportunity to “wear” a pregnancy belly. The belly is an anatomically correct, weighted vest that the student will wear for about 20 minutes and perform various tasks to give them a small glimpse into the physical demands of what pregnancy requires. This activity will require a signed permission slip in order to participate. The other simulation activity that will require parent permission is the optional project of taking home a Real Care baby, a computer operated/monitored infant care simulation. The baby would be sent home with your child over a weekend and they will be required to take care of it, providing for all of the normal cares that an infant requires, including late night cares. All of these activities and experiences help students to get a glimpse into the challenging world of parenting without making it too real.

If you have any questions or concerns you would like to discuss with me about this class, please call or email me at your child’s school. I encourage you to communicate with your child and share in this learning process.

Thank you,

Amanda Wysocki

Family and Consumer Sciences teacher

Lake Holcombe Schools

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