

# 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE DISEASE PREVENTION UNIT

## PARENT PERMISSION SLIP

Dear Parent (s) or Guardian (s):

In order to comply with the Maryland State Department of Education, and Maryland Law, FCPS provides instruction on disease prevention, including HIV and AIDS. Although some counties have elected to introduce this material at earlier grades, Frederick County Public Schools will present the information in the fifth grade. Your child will receive this instruction on the following dates: \_\_\_\_\_ . We would like to extend an invitation to the parents/guardians to preview the materials used in the Disease Prevention unit and ask any questions you may have. The preview is scheduled at school on the following date and time: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ .

The purpose of this unit is to provide students with factual, age appropriate information to help them develop the understandings and responsible behaviors that can prevent the spread of HIV. The objectives of the unit are to:

- Differentiate between communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Identify age-appropriate modes of transmission of disease
- Identify how the body fights infection
- Identify HIV and AIDS as a communicable diseases
- Identify some methods for transmission of HIV & AIDS as well as ways to prevent transmission  
*(Sexual transmission of HIV & AIDS is not part of classroom discussion, although it is stated in the video as one form of transmission of the disease. If questions arise, students are encouraged to ask them at home.)*
- Analyze personal daily living habits and choices that increase the risk of developing disease

Teachers and school nurses receive training prior to delivering the unit of instruction and are instructed to focus only on the objectives of each lesson. On occasion, students may ask questions the teacher is not permitted to address. In this event, the student is directed to ask the question at home.

A Parent Guide, "Conversation Starters for Parents About Disease Prevention" has been developed in order to facilitate discussion should you wish to do so at home. You may receive a copy from your student's teacher, or you may access this document online at <http://education.fcps.org/healthpek12> (select "Parent Resources" from the top menu bar, from the drop-down menu select "Health", and scroll down to the section labeled "Fifth Grade Disease Prevention Unit"). This pathway will also bring you to the link of the sixteen-minute video for preview, titled "HIV and AIDS: Staying Safe", which is shown as part of the student's curriculum. The video covers the science of HIV and AIDS in an engaging animation that explains what happens to an immune system if infected, and age-appropriate ways transmission can occur, with an emphasis on making healthy choices.

**Parent permission is required for your student to take part in this important unit.** Please bring this letter with you to the Parent Preview so you can indicate your wishes once you have reviewed the materials. If you do not plan to attend the Parent Preview, you must complete the section below and have your student return it to school. If you do not grant permission, then your student will be given an alternative assignment to complete in a location other than the classroom where instruction is taking place.

**Please complete and return the following section only:**



As the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Printed Student name)

I \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Printed parent/guardian name)

Check one box:

- GIVE my permission to allow my student to participate in the 5th grade Disease Prevention Unit.**
- DO NOT give my permission to allow my student to participate in the 5th grade Disease Prevention Unit.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date