

P.S. 69 Queens

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Principal

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PL 65-24

January 18, 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian:

HIV/AIDS is one of the most serious health problems Americans have ever faced. Advances in medicine have made tremendous strides in keeping people infected with HIV healthy for many years. Still, it has no cure, and education is the only way we can help our students protect themselves from becoming infected.

The New York State Education Department and the New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) require that HIV/AIDS education be provided for all students in kindergarten through grade 12. The *HIV/AIDS Curriculum* that NYC DOE developed for NYC students is age and developmentally appropriate. For example, in kindergarten, students learn how people get sick and how to get better. In 7th grade, children learn how HIV affects the immune system, the risks of alcohol and drug use, and the importance of communicating with parents/guardians or caregivers. High school lessons teach students to avoid behaviors that put them at risk for HIV, STDs, and unintended pregnancy.

As a parent or legal guardian, you have the right to excuse your child from certain HIV/AIDS lessons that teach about methods of HIV/STD prevention. These updated prevention lessons are identified in the *HIV/AIDS Curriculum*, which is online at <https://www.weteachnyc.org/resources/collection/grades-k-5-hiv-parent-overviews-growing-up-and-staying-safe/>.

If you would like your child to be excused, please use this link to inform your child's teacher. Use this link **ONLY if you wish to excuse your child** from the prevention lesson <https://forms.gle/AaBqFYk7f3YkugNL9>

Encourage your child to speak with you about HIV/AIDS. Doing so can help you reinforce your child's awareness of how HIV is transmitted, and present opportunities for you and your child to discuss how abstaining from sexual intercourse is the most important and effective way for children to protect their health and their future.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please call me or our Parent Coordinator, Ms. Mrazovic at 718-424-7700.

Sincerely,

Nicole Ciorciari

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Principal

Lesson will be delivered in classroom between January 23rd and February 10th