

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Family Life Education/ Sex Education Opt Out Information

Comprehensive Health and Physical Education is an integral part of your child's educational experience and emphasizes the natural interdisciplinary connections between wellness and health and physical education. The primary focus is the development of knowledge and skills that influence healthy behaviors within the context of self, family, school, and the local and global community.

The 2020 Health and PE standards have been adopted by the Midland Park School District and meet all requirements mandated by the N.J. Department of Education. Parents/guardians are encouraged to review the newly adopted curriculum, including the Comprehensive Health and PE, which can be found on the Midland Park School District Curriculum Website: www.mpsnj.org → Academics → Curriculum. After reviewing the curriculum and other district resources, if you have any questions please reach out to your child's health teacher or Highland administration.

The Midland Park School District acknowledges that parents/guardians are the primary family life educators for their child(ren) and we are committed to partnering with you to provide Family Life/Sex education to ensure that all of our students have an opportunity to learn about sensitive topics in a safe and structured environment. The Family Life/Sex Education Program at Highland School addresses the following material in the spring of 5th grade.

- *Personal Growth and Development (puberty)*
- *Social and Sexual Health (Human Reproduction and Pregnancy)*
- *Pregnancy and Parenting (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity)*

However, you are encouraged to read the Highland Health curriculum in its entirety, that can be found online, in order to familiarize yourself with all aspects of the Health curriculum.

Although we strongly encourage families to have their child(ren) participate in these essential health topics, we want to acknowledge that as per state statute, **Parents/Guardians do have the option of excluding their child from any portion of sexuality/family life education instruction if it is in conflict with their conscience, moral values, or religiously held beliefs.**

NJ Statute: Title 18A-Education: Section 18A35-4.7: Parent's statement of conflict with conscience:

Any child whose parent or guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any part of the instructions in health, family life education or sex education is in conflict with his conscience, or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is being given and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result therefrom.

To opt your child out of any portion of the Health, Family Life/Sex Education Program offered at Highland School please use the form below and submit to the main office signed and dated.

Sincerely,



Peter Galasso, Principal

Office: 201-445-3880

E-Mail: pgalasso@mpsny.org

Highland School

Comprehensive Health Education Opt-Out Form

Please return this Opt-Out Form in its entirety to the Highland School's Main Office. Should you have any questions please reach out to your child's health teacher and/or Highland Administration.

I have read and reviewed the Highland Schools' Comprehensive Health curriculum and associated resources for my child's grade level. I would like my child to be excluded from the topics indicated below, which are in conflict with our families' religious or moral beliefs, and/or values.

Please check all that apply

Please excuse my child from all standards associated with the Highland School Family Life/Sex Education curriculum, which includes;

- Puberty: (Standards 2.1.5.PGD.2 - 2.1.5.PGD.5)
- Pregnancy and Parenting: (Standards 2.1.5.PGD.1 – 2)
- Gender/Gender Expression/ Sexual Orientation: (Standards 2.1.5.SSH.1-3)

Child's Name: _____

Grade Level: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

If there are other standards beyond the Highland School's Family Life/Sex Education Program that you would like your child excused from, please list the standard(s) below. All curriculum can be found at www.mpsnj.org/academics/curriculum .

Please excuse my child from the additional standards in the Highland Health Curriculum:

Please submit to the Highland School Main Office