



**Kimberly Area School District
HUMAN GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT
Grade 8**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

It is important that our youth have knowledge about human growth and development to understand body changes, maintain a healthy lifestyle, and make healthy, responsible decisions which fit with their personal values and yours. It is important for you to be the primary source for information and education, and our schools will provide support to assist your efforts.

4 year-old-kindergarten through twelfth grade human growth and development objectives guide learning in our schools. These objectives were designed by a committee of parents, teachers, administrators, and community members to be developmentally appropriate and were approved by the Board of Education. The objectives for your child's grade level are printed here along with our philosophy for your review. Your child's teachers will provide opportunities throughout the school year for your child to learn these objectives. To provide the best learning situations, we connect this information with other things about which the child is learning. Because of this, human growth and development learning may occur throughout the year when it is most appropriate, but there may be times when the learning is more focused.

Films related to the physical and emotional changes that occur with puberty are used in grades 4, 5, and 6. When the class is viewing one of these films, the teacher or counselor will notify you in advance so that you can have the opportunity to preview the film. We encourage you to take time with your child to discuss the film together after it is shown in class. This discussion provides another opportunity for you to share your values and expectations and to understand your child's perspectives. We have additional resources to help parents connect and speak with their children about human growth and development issues. For more information about available resources, speak with your child's teacher or counselor.

If you have any questions or concerns about what your child will be learning, please talk with your child's teacher or counselor. If you prefer that your child not participate in human growth and development instruction, you need to make that request in writing to the teacher or school principal in advance and an alternative educational opportunity will be provided for your child during that time. Students whose parents exempt them from instruction related to human growth and development will still receive instruction on other health-related topics such as basic hygiene and sanitation, the effects of controlled substances and alcohol on the human body, symptoms of disease and the proper care of the body. Instruction is also provided for elementary students on effective means by which students may recognize, avoid, prevent and halt physically or psychologically abusive or intrusive situations, such as child abuse, child enticement and sexual abuse.

If you would like more information about the district's health curriculum, including the complete human growth and development curriculum, or the instructional materials, please contact me at (920) 788-7900, Extension 4181.

Sincerely,
John Schultz
Director of Student Improvement

PHILOSOPHY

The Kimberly Area School District recognizes human growth and development as a lifelong educational process. The responsibility for this education belongs first and foremost to parents, church, and community. The district recognizes the obligation of the schools to support and supplement this aspect of education. Since students are in school for a large portion of their lives, it seems appropriate that the school offer to assist parents in these areas.

This human growth and development program has been planned with the active, constructive involvement of parents, teachers, students, community leaders, and administrators with approval by the School Board.

The Kimberly School District is committed to provide human growth and development instruction as part of a comprehensive education program. Human growth and development instruction refers to the process of growth in the intellectual, physical, emotional, spiritual, and social phases of individuals and their human relations.

Human growth and development should not be an isolated special facet of education. Sequential, well-planned units appropriate for developmental needs will be integrated through the 4K-12 curriculum. Our goal is to provide accurate information in a non-threatening environment which includes dialogue between parents, students, and teachers. This accurate information will allow students and educators to use correct terminology when referring to human growth and development topics.

The Kimberly Area School District recognizes its responsibility to promote in our students positive self-concepts, healthy interpersonal relationships, and responsible decision making. This curriculum will help students examine their own attitudes and behavior in relation to the norms and values of parents, church, and community.

OBJECTIVES FOR GRADE 8

1. Apply the basic steps involved in the decision making process.
2. Explain qualities that make healthy relationships.
3. Identify the influence of personal values and beliefs (as well as other outside influences such as the media) that impact a healthy relationship.
4. Describe physical, mental, and social changes that occur as they mature physically and sexually through puberty.
5. Identify and explain the structure and function of male and female reproduction system.
6. Explain sexually transmitted infections, their potential impact on one's health, and prevention and treatment options.
7. Know why abstinence is the only responsible choice for teens to protect their social, mental and physical health.
8. Identify reliable community resources, including parents or other trusted adults, that they can go to for information or if they are or someone they know is being harassed, abused or assaulted.