



District Office  
T 650.526.3500  
1400 Montecito Ave.  
Mountain View, CA 94043

September 2019

Dear Eighth Grade Parents:

As part of the 2016 California Healthy Youth Act, the Mountain View Whisman School District is required to provide 8th grade students with both sexual health education and HIV prevention education. In past years, our District nurses taught this unit as part of the regular curriculum in the spring. Recently, there have been several changes to the requirements for this course that have necessitated new curriculum.

The District now uses *Teen Talk Middle School*. *Teen Talk Middle School* is an 8-10 hour course developed by Health Connected, a non-profit agency dedicated to helping young people feel confident and supported to make informed decisions about their own sexual health. Based in Redwood City, Health Connected has been providing this human growth and development curriculum for most of the schools in San Mateo County for many years. The *Teen Talk Middle School* program was developed in accordance with the California Health Education Content Standards for "Growth, Development and Sexual Health" and reflects the most current requirements outlined in California Educational Code.

Students in eighth grade will participate in the program during the school day over a two-week period during the school year. The classes will be taught by trained health educators from Health Connected. Your child's classroom teacher will be present to support both the presenters and students throughout the entire program. Topics will include: prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV and AIDS, birth control with an emphasis on abstinence, gender and sexual identity, reproductive anatomy and physiology, healthy relationships, sexual safety and the law, negotiation and refusal skills, and many more useful topics for teens to maintain healthy relationships and bodies. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to discuss class information with parents and ask questions.

The District will hold a parent information and preview night for the new materials. Health educators from Health Connected and our District nurses will provide an overview of the *Teen Talk Middle School* course and materials on **Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm District Office Conference Room D, 1400 Montecito Ave., Mountain View.** This preview is for parents only and Spanish interpretation will be provided (child care will not be available).

Information will be sent home with your child including when the *Teen Talk Middle School* course will be presented. While we hope every student will participate in *Teen Talk Middle School*, we understand that this may be a subject you prefer to discuss with your child. If you **DO NOT** want your child to participate in *Teen Talk Middle School*, you can still opt your child out. Please submit a written note to your child's eighth grade science teacher or the school principal. An alternate activity will be provided.

If you are unable to attend the information night and still would like to preview the materials, please contact our District Office at (650) 526-3549. More information is also available about Health Connected and their sexual health courses at <http://www.health-connected.org>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cathy Baur", written in a cursive style.

Cathy Baur, Chief Academic Officer