



## MILL A SCHOOL DISTRICT

1142 Jessup Road, Cook, WA 98605 • (509) 538-2522 • fax (509) 538-2181



March 6, 2024

Dear MAS & PCIA Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to inform you that because of Senate Bill 5395, passed by the Legislature and Washington voters in 2020, all public schools are required to provide comprehensive sexual health education. In accordance with district policies 2125 (Sexual Health Education) and 2126 (HIV/AIDS Prevention Education), beginning in grade 4, MASD schools will provide age-appropriate sexual health education as defined by [Washington State health learning standards](#).

For the 2023-2024 school year, Mill A School students in grade 5 will join the 6-7<sup>th</sup> grade health class taught by Ms. Duffus during the month of April to receive HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention education.

To provide our students with quality instruction on this topic, we will be utilizing Health Smart curriculum, ensuring that medically and scientifically accurate information is presented. All of this information is presented in a safe and appropriate environment. Please also know that our staff is trained to lead discussions that recognize values-based questions. When these questions arise, our teachers do not share their opinions. Instead, they help the students to recognize that some health, relationship, and sexual choices are determined by the norms of each family and culture. In light of this, we hope that you will be a partner in your child's education during these units of study. **All lessons will be available for review in the MAS library during the week of parent-teacher conferences (March 18-22) and on the [district website Parent/Guardian Information Page](#).** You may also preview the material at the school by contacting the school secretary and scheduling a time that works best for you (509-538-2522).

Even if you are choosing not to have your child participate in this learning program, recognize that students tend to talk about this content throughout the school day. Your child will likely receive second-hand information. Previewing the curriculum in advance may help you respond to questions your child may have. If you intend to have your child opt out of portions of the STI/HIV/AIDS prevention unit, please contact Kaylene Herman ([kaylene.herman@millasd.org](mailto:kaylene.herman@millasd.org)) or Lisa O'Neal ([lisa.oneal@millasd.org](mailto:lisa.oneal@millasd.org)) as soon as possible for an opt-out form. Opt-out forms will also be available at the school office upon request. Per district policy, parents must preview the HIV/AIDS curriculum if they intend to have their child "opt out" out of this instruction. Please contact Ms. Herman or Mrs. Duffus ([Rachel.duffus@millasd.org](mailto:Rachel.duffus@millasd.org)) or call the school office (509-538-2522) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Superintendent/Principal

[bob.rogers@millasd.org](mailto:bob.rogers@millasd.org)