

*The following is a sample letter for principals to personalize and send home to parents prior to 5<sup>th</sup> grade sexual health education.*

**Date**

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

As part of our fifth grade curriculum, we have scheduled our “Human Growth and Development” unit on **dates**.

This spring, we have prepared lessons to be used in a remote and in a hybrid setting. We are inviting a professional health educator to offer two lessons alongside our classroom teachers. The health educator trains teachers to use lessons based on health curricula evaluated by the Washington State Office of Public Instruction. The lesson plans and supporting materials are available on the [Bellingham Public Schools website](#).

In our puberty, hygiene and HIV lessons, we keep whole classes together, instead of separating students by gender. It is considered best practice to keep students together for these lessons, and this is consistent with the teaching and learning style we use for other subjects and lessons.

Washington state law provides that no student may be required to participate in HIV/AIDS prevention education if the student’s parent or guardian objects. In order to exempt a student from this instruction, the law requires that parents have previewed the curriculum. You may preview the materials on the Bellingham Public Schools website. Requests for exemptions are to be made in writing; you may email Executive Director of Operations Jessica Sankey ([Jessica.Sankey@bellingshamschools.org](mailto:Jessica.Sankey@bellingshamschools.org)) and your school principal.

Sincerely,  
\_\_\_\_\_, Principal  
**(School Name)** Elementary School