

FAMILY LIFE CURRICULUM

February 24, 2010

Dear 5th through 8th Grade Parents,

We offer the *Benziger Family Life* curriculum in grades 5th through 8th. The Parental Consent form is on the next page. The form asks parents to decide if they wish their child to receive all the family life information in class, or have their child excused from the human reproduction classes or the entire program. For those families who exercise their right to excuse, the student will be moved to a supervised area. **Each student needs a consent form before class instruction can begin. Please return the signed form to your child's homeroom teacher by Friday, March 12th.**

The *Benziger Family Life* program states "sex education, which is a basic right and duty of parents, must always be carried out under their attentive guidance whether at home or in education centers chosen by them." This program makes it possible for explicit sexual information to be taught at home or in the classroom according to the wishes of the parents.

Seventh and Eighth grade parents may preview their child's information in the Parent Connection booklet available in the office. This booklet summarizes the concepts taught, provides information on the Catholic teachings, gives helpful information on a child's development, suggests helpful ways for talking with your child, and outlines prayers, principles, and actions related to Catholic morality.

Fifth and Sixth grade parents may also preview the Parent Connection book and the human reproduction booklets (Level A and B) available in the office. Human reproduction is taught only at the 5th and 6th grade levels. The human reproduction booklets contain explicit age-appropriate sex information. Grade 5 students will receive the Level A information which includes the male and female reproductive organs, intercourse, and conception. Grade 6 students will use the Level B booklet which includes information about the development and birth of a baby. These materials will be presented in an informal conversational manner with the boys and girls divided at each grade level. Mr. Evans and Mr. Fairbank will facilitate the boys' discussions, and Mrs. Conrow, Mrs. McCloskey, and/or Mrs. Schwartz, will lead the girls' conversations. These discussions will take place over two class periods tentatively scheduled for the last week in April. Teachers will not add content. If questions arise in the course of the conversations that go beyond the scope of what is covered in the booklet, the students will be directed to ask their parents for further clarification and details. Students will read and review the human reproduction book during the class discussions. The book will be collected at the end of the class and sent home to the parents through the Wednesday envelope.

Please feel free to contact your child's teacher or me if you have further questions.

Thank you, Mrs. Lunn

|| ST. BRENDAN PARISH SCHOOL

PARENT CONSENT FORM: FAMILY LIFE

February 24, 2010

Dear 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Parents,

Please return this consent form to your child's homeroom teacher on or before Friday, March 12th. Family Life instruction will begin when each student has a signed, completed consent form.

Guidelines from the Archdiocese of Seattle require that parents take greater responsibility in the human sexuality education and formation of their children. The school desires to provide support needed by parents to ensure that children receive adequate and positive information about their sexuality based on the teachings of the Catholic Church. Since some parents are concerned about the developmental readiness of their children to receive this instruction or because parents desire to impart this information to their own children in the privacy of their homes, the school provides these options for parents.

Please check one of the following and sign below:

1. () **I wish my child** to participate in the *Benziger Family Life* program.
2. () **I do not wish my child** to participate in the *Benziger Family Life* program offered in the school. The human reproduction booklet and/or the student text will be sent home to me to use with my child.
3. () I wish to provide some of the instruction in human sexuality for my child at home. **I do not wish to have my child (a 5th or 6th grader) attend the human reproduction discussions.** The human reproduction booklet will be sent home to me to use with my child. He/she has my permission to participate in the other Family Life lessons and discussions.

Student Name

Grade

Parent Signature

Date

