



A. E. Kent Middle School

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Grant Althouse, Principal

September, 2019

Dear Parents:

We are very pleased to share with you our plans for our **Teens In Transitions: Strategies for Informed, Responsible Decision-Making** seminars for eighth grade students. The sessions include a full day of classes at Kent on November 22nd, as well as two days at the Branson School in Ross on November 25th and 26th.

Attached is some background information that is essential for your understanding of the development and objectives of this program. As you may know, state law requires that parents be notified in writing about any instruction related to sex education or sexually transmitted infections. Parents must have an opportunity to review all instructional materials prior to the seminars. We are very excited about the prospects of teaching this program again and look forward to meeting with you to preview the instructional materials and answer your questions. **It is our belief that sex education should be the combined effort of home and school.** These seminars provide the Kent Staff and parents with a unique opportunity to work together for the ultimate benefit of those we care about-- the students.

For this reason we are offering you an evening when parents can come and hear a presentation from Heidi Longo, counselor and coordinator of Teens In Transition, Grant Althouse, Principal and other staff members, as well as view the curriculum. That meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **October 17th at 6 PM in the Kent Library.** We encourage you to join us.

WHAT WE HOPE STUDENTS WILL GAIN FROM PARTICIPATION IN THIS COURSE ON TEEN TRANSITIONS:

1. Students will make informed decisions regarding friendships, love and sex. They will understand that these decisions are influenced by:

- one's physical and emotional well being
- parents and the home environment
- religious beliefs/convictions
- peers
- media

2. Students will understand that this course is only the beginning, that this can't be thought of as the sum total of one's sex education.

3. Students will feel more comfortable in discussing sexuality with parents and other adults.

TEEN TRANSITION GOAL STATEMENTS

The Kent staff will present a multi-session discussion seminar for 8th grade students that will meet the following objectives:

1. To contribute to the student's development of awareness of him/herself as a person of worth, having values, being responsible to him/herself and others, and having some control over his/her own life and that of others.
2. To reinforce family as the primary source of support.
3. To increase competence in developing and maintaining mutually satisfactory relationships with peers.
4. To gain knowledge of male and female reproductive systems and function.
5. To develop a factual understanding of varieties of sexual expression, and to explore cultural values and myths related to those behaviors.
6. To develop an awareness of the inter-relationship of the physical and emotional facets of one's self.
7. To explore commercialization of sexuality by the media.
8. To teach the importance of thoughtful decision-making.
9. To understand the connection between sexuality and physical health.
10. To understand the abuses of sexuality and how to resist abusers.
11. To understand the risks (emotional, social and physical) and the implications of sexual activity at an early age, with emphasis on abstinence as the best alternative.

HOW THESE SEMINARS WERE DEVELOPED

In the fall of 1976 a group of parents, teachers and the Principal met to discuss the need for a course related to adolescent sexuality for Kent Middle School students. In the spring of 1977, after extensive in-service for staff, a four day course was approved by the School Board. A thorough evaluation by staff and students validated the appropriateness of the content, and the program has been revised and updated yearly. It has been conducted for the past 40+ years.

HOW COURSE WILL BE PRESENTED TO STUDENTS

1. Two adult seminar leaders, a male and a female, will be assigned to each group of 18-20 students. These seminar groups, adults and students, will stay together for all the sessions.
2. Students meet at Kent on **November 22 and at Branson School on November 25th and 26th in Ross**. Branson is not in session during the two days we are on their campus.
3. **Parents will not be given the option of having students attend or not attend a selected session.** The reason for this is that the modules are carefully scaffolded and partial participation does not provide the students with complete and accurate information.
4. Parents have expressed an interest in having discussion openers to assist in talking to their students about the course in human sexuality. Here is a list of the major topics. We hope that this will enable each family to have further discussions about these subjects if they so choose.

SEMINAR TOPICS

- I. Growth, Development and Anatomy
- II. Intercourse and Decision Making
- III. Contraception/Pregnancy and Disease Prevention
- IV. Abstinence and Refusal Skills
- V. Sexually Transmitted Infections
- VI. AIDS and HIV
- VII. Sexual Harassment/Exploitation and Abuse

- VIII. Gender Issues
- IX. Sexual Orientation: Reading Between the Labels
- X. Qualities of Friendship and Love
- XI. Peer Pressure and Decision Making
- XII. Navigating Social Media and its impact on Relationships

Please do the following if your child is going to participate:

1. Return the checklist and the check to the Kent office **no later than Friday November 2nd.**
2. Discuss the rules of conduct with your child.
3. **The cost to our school district for each child to participate in Teens in Transition is \$105.** If you are able to do so, we request that you make a voluntary donation for this amount. Checks should be made to Kentfield School District. No Student will be denied participation if you choose not to donate, but our participation depends on our ability to collect the necessary funds to pay for it. See the last two pages for the instructions.
4. Attach a note if any special dietary or health arrangements are needed.
5. Schedule time with your student to do the survey called **Talk to Your Parent**, which he/she will bring home the week of November 18th. The signature page is to be returned on Friday, November 22nd, and will be collected in class that day.

Students who are NOT participating will be given work at school for those days. Special plans will be made for them, and they are expected to attend school.

We hope this background information regarding the Teens In Transition Seminars is helpful to you. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Heidi Longo
Counselor & Teens In Transition Coordinator

RULES FOR STUDENTS AT BRANSON SCHOOL

1. All school rules apply. Cell phones are to be turned off and put away during the day.
2. Drugs, alcohol and tobacco are strictly forbidden.
3. Students will respect all property. Vandalism will not be tolerated.
4. **Students should not bring backpacks.**
5. Students are not to leave the immediate vicinity of classrooms unless accompanied by an adult. Branson "off limits" areas are to be strictly observed.
6. Model behavior is expected in the dining room. Students are to bus their tables before the (whole) table may be dismissed by an adult. No food is to come in or out of the dining room. Chairs and tables may not be moved. Students may not leave the dining room until 15-20 minutes after entry.
7. During lunch break, students may be in the cafeteria, gym, bathrooms or outside. All other rooms, including classrooms, are off limits
8. Students who wish to use the gym at lunch need to wear appropriate gym shoes.
9. Students are to respect the requests of all adults, teachers, parents and Branson staff.
10. Students must have written permission **in advance** in order to be allowed to walk or ride a bike home from Branson. A note from the parent needs to be turned in to the counselor the week prior to Teens In Transition.
11. Students who disregard rules more than once or who take part in a serious infraction will be sent home immediately. Other eighth grade activities will be in serious jeopardy as well for the remainder of the year.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM SEMINARS

MONDAY AND TUESDAY MORNING

- Volunteer parent drivers in a carpool will transport students to Branson School each morning. Be sure that they arrive at school promptly at 8am Drivers will need to go to the area behind the College Of Marin Gym (across from the COM baseball field) to pick up the students. Enter the COM parking lot directly across from Woodland Avenue. Students will assemble on the Back 50 and come out to the cars. Late students hold up our parent drivers, many of whom need to get to work. **Drivers will wait only 5 minutes.** After that students need to get to Branson on their own or remain at Kent for the day.
- Students who are sick **need to call the office before 8:00 a.m.** so we don't worry about them and drivers can be told.
- Students who wish to walk or ride their bikes **must turn in a written note signed by parents** specifying which dates and times. Ms. Longo needs the note by Friday, November 2nd.

AFTERNOONS

- **Parents are responsible for picking up their students at Branson at the end of each day.** Some of you may find it convenient to make carpool arrangements with other parents. If you prefer that your child walk or ride a bike home, please provide him/her with written permission to show to Ms. Longo in advance. **Students are to be picked up in the Branson parking lot – past the main entrance of Branson. Please don't drive onto the grounds, as it is a traffic jam nightmare.**

Pick up times at Branson are:

Monday - **3:30 PM**, Tuesday - **3:30 PM**

- *A staff member is required to wait until all students have been picked up. We really need drivers to be prompt. **Students will be taken to Kent to wait if no one comes by 3:45.***

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO KENT OFFICE BY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1st**

TEENS IN TRANSITION SEMINARS CHECKLIST

Please check the appropriate boxes:

Student Name (Please Print) _____

I have discussed acceptable rules of conduct for Teens in Transition with my 8th grader. We understand that all other school rules apply and that any breach will result in the student being sent home for the duration of the seminars and face possible exclusion from other trips or activities the rest of this school year.

The cost to our school district for each child to participate in Teens in Transition is \$105. If you are able to do so, we request that you make a voluntary donation for this amount. Checks should be made out to the Kentfield School District. No student will be denied participation if a parent/guardian chooses not to donate, but our participation depends on our ability to collect the necessary funds. If you would like to make an extra donation to sponsor another child, we will gratefully accept your kind offer. See below.

I am enclosing my donation **check** for _____ (**suggested amount is \$105**), made out to the **Kentfield School District**.

I have included an additional amount of _____ to sponsor another student.

OPT OUT: Per Ed Code 51938, as the parent/guardian I am requesting that my child **NOT** receive comprehensive sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention education. I understand that my child is still expected to attend school and that he/she will participate in the alternate activities.

We will be out of town on the dates of the program and therefore my son/daughter will not participate. **I am aware that my child will still receive a reproductive anatomy lesson the week prior to the Teens in Transition seminars.**

******(If you are out of town on the TnT dates and wish to opt out of the reproductive anatomy lesson, please check the "OPT out" box as well as this one).**

Student Name (Please Print)

Parent Signature

Date

Dietary Restrictions: (circle all that apply)

Vegetarian

Vegan

Gluten Free

Dairy Free

Nut free

**PLEASE HELP BY SIGNING UP FOR DRIVING OR LUNCH SUPERVISION
ON THE NEXT PAGE**

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO KENT OFFICE BY
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1st**

PARENT VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

Parent name (Please Print): _____ Email _____
Telephone _____

*Please check any dates you can volunteer **TO DRIVE TO BRANSON***

___ Monday, November 25. I can transport ___ (#) students from Kent to Branson. Pick-up time is 8AM in the Kent parking lot. Drivers will wait for 5 minutes and then drive to Branson. COM Parking Lot #10 (Between rear of COM Gym and COM Baseball Field)

___ Tuesday, November 26. I can transport ___ (#) students from Kent to Branson. Pick-up time is 8AM in the Kent parking lot. Drivers will wait for 5 minutes and then drive to Branson. COM Parking Lot #10 (Between rear of COM Gym and COM Baseball Field)

*Please check any dates you can volunteer **TO SUPERVISE LUNCH AT BRANSON***

___ Monday, November 25. I can help with lunch time supervision at Branson. Monday's supervision runs from 12:10-1:00. **Please arrive at the Branson cafeteria by 12:05.**

___ Tuesday, November 26. I can help with lunch time supervision at Branson. Tuesday's supervision runs from 12:15-1:00. **Please arrive at the Branson cafeteria by 12:10.**