January 21, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The State of Oklahoma mandates that all students receive HIV prevention education and that any training provided teach abstinence from sexual activity as the only certain means for the prevention of the spread or contraction of the AIDS virus through sexual contact. It also requires that the training teach that artificial methods of birth control are not always an effective means in preventing the spread of the AIDS virus and reliance on such methods puts a person at risk for exposure to the disease.

Our 7th grade students will receive HIV/AIDS instruction beginning March 5th. Five class periods are scheduled to cover the curriculum. Our 6th grade will receive a brief introduction to HIV/AIDS on March 5th & 6th. Our 8th graders will receive a condensed review of the instruction from their 7th grade year on March 5th & 6th. All instruction will be given during Science class. Mrs. Farris will be presenting the lessons with the assistance of Mrs. Kesler, Mr. Ardery, Nurse Skillings, and Mrs. Jones. We will be using a State and Grove School Board approved curriculum entitled *Making Proud Choices!* This curriculum, provided by a Shawnee Educational Foundation Grant, teaches a safer sex approach to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), teen pregnancy, and HIV. Students will obtain the knowledge, confidence and skills necessary to reduce the risk of STDs, HIV and pregnancy by abstaining from sex or by choosing to use protection. This curriculum is based on cognitive-behavioral theories, focus groups and the authors’ extensive experience working with youth.

This curriculum was developed, pilot-tested, implemented, and evaluated in a study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and was selected as a successful program by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of Adolescent and School Health. *Making Proud Choices!* meets and exceeds the State of Oklahoma requirement for HIV/AIDS education in the classroom and is listed as an approved curriculum by the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

The *Making Proud Choices!* Curriculum will be available for you to view in the school library on Tuesday, February 17th at 5:00 p.m. The curriculum will also be available for you to view in the school office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

You may choose for your child to opt out of participating in this program. A permission slip will be sent home at a later date, after parents have had an opportunity to view the curriculum. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Farris, Mrs. Jones, or Nurse Skillings.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Farris