



# INDEPENDENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Sammi Collins - School Improvement Specialist

Julie Melendez - School Counselor Chair

Wendy Baylor - Student Activities Coordinator

April 10, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The school division's Family Life Education (FLE) program will begin during the second semester. This is a curriculum which focuses on families and human development. The lessons will be taught as part of the core curriculum for elementary students and the health curriculum for secondary students. Instruction will begin April 29 for Ms. Jordan and Mr. Sully, May 20 for Mrs. Guimond, Mrs. Davis, and Mr. Malone, and May 28 for Mrs. Washington and Mr. Preston.

The form attached to this letter serves two purposes. It provides the dates of instruction and the objectives to be taught, as well as information regarding the opt-out program. *In accordance with the Virginia Department of Education guidelines, you may choose to opt your child/children out of all or part of the Family Life Education instruction.*

So you may be familiar with the information being presented to your child, I encourage you to schedule a time to review the Family Life Education curriculum documents and resource materials for your child's grade level. The curriculum is available in our school and all other schools in the division. The FLE resource materials may be reviewed at the school prior to the start of instruction or at any other time during the school year.

The Family Life Education Parent Guide contains the objectives and additional information regarding the FLE program. The parent guide can be found on the school division website, [www.vbschools.com](http://www.vbschools.com), using the direct link, [Family Life Parent Guide](#). Additional copies of this information will be made available at your school.

**IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE** in the Family Life Education program this school year, you must use the attached form to request that your child be removed from the Family Life Education classes. This opt-out form should be returned to your child's school by **4/29/19**. Unless you return this form, your child will participate in the program. If your child is enrolled in a special education program or has a 504 plan, you may determine the extent of his or her participation through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process or determined 504 accommodations.

The school division offers alternative instruction in current health topics to all Opt-Out students. The lessons were developed in the areas of nutrition, personal health and fitness, personal safety and consumer health with emphasis on enhancing reading comprehension, writing and study skills. The Opt-Out lessons are alternative health activities and considered part of the health program. Grades for these lessons are based on participation and completion of class assignments. At the conclusion of Family Life Education, your child will bring a folder home of all completed lessons and assignments.

In the event you wish to withdraw or reinstate your child/children once the program begins, please notify me in writing.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Vaughan  
Principal

Attachment – Opt-Out Permission Form



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