



Dear Bethany Parents,

It is our goal to work with you to teach our students morals and values using God's Word as our guide. Part of our collective responsibility is to teach students what God has to say about gender, family, marriage and sexual reproduction. At school, we do this in a developmentally-appropriate fashion at each grade level, K-8.

Here is a short summary of our objectives for "sex-ed" at Bethany:

K to 3rd:

- God created boys and girls with unique characteristics.
- God's plan is for marriage to be between a man and a woman
- Families can vary in make-up.
- Where do babies come from?

4th-6th:

- Learning about our changing bodies and onset of adolescence. (Boys and girls are taught separately.)
- Time may be set aside for appropriate anonymous questions from students.

7th/8th:

- Pieces and parts of human reproductive system.
- Consequences of sexual contact (i.e. STDs)
- Abstinence until marriage and the gift of sex within a marriage
- Fetal development and the sanctity of life.
- Appropriate anonymous questions from students.

We use curriculum materials by Christian publishers to accomplish this task. These materials are Biblically-centered and teach lessons about gender, physical development, marriage and the family that are in line with the teachings of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. (For more information, visit lcms.org.) We have copies of these materials in the school office for parents to examine at their leisure. Before we teach the lessons, we do refer to the permissions you signed as part of your registration. If you have asked that your child not be included in the lessons, we will make arrangements for them to be elsewhere.

We will inform you before we teach these lessons so that you can be prepared for any questions that may arise. If you would like some guidance for addressing this topic with your children at home, please let me know. I have some materials you may check out for your use.

Please also let me know if you have any questions about our program, and thank you for partnering with us!

Dr. Mary Fink, Principal