Dear Parent/Guardian:

The 8th grade class will be participating in a sexual health program provided by YSS (formerly Youth & Shelter Services, Inc.). This program will be implemented March 22nd-26th, 2021.We will use the Middle School FLASH (Family Life and Sexual Health) curriculum. FLASH is a medically accurate, age-appropriate comprehensive sexual health education curriculum. The goals of the curriculum are to prevent teen pregnancy, STDs and sexual violence, and to increase family communication about sexual health related topics.

Throughout the time we spend with the 8th grade students, they will be learning about Rules of Dating, Saying “NO,” Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Preventing STDs and Condoms and Birth Control. This is a high-energy, fun, educational, and motivational program that utilizes many activities to engage students and foster discussions about these sensitive topics.

Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in the program through take-home activities that are provided to the students throughout the program. These activities give you the opportunity to talk about important family and personal values with your child along with opening the door to discuss some very important issues. **The discussions with your child are considered confidential. At no time will students be asked to share the content of their conversations with their parents. Additionally, we do not discuss personal values and beliefs in the classroom; our role is to provide factual information only.**

If you have any concerns or questions about what is being taught, please don’t hesitate to contact Taylor Nuehring at [tnuehring@yss.org](mailto:tnuehring@yss.org), or reach out to Mr. Titman, Mr. Doyle or Mr. Kelly, and we can talk about your concerns. If you elect not to have your child participate in the unit, please contact Mr. Titman or Mr. Doyle.

Thank you,

**Taylor Nuehring, CSHE // Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program Coordinator**

She/Her/Hers

YSS HEADQUARTERS / 420 KELLOGG AVENUE, AMES, IA 50010

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