



Sarah Huizenga
Principal
320 East Main Avenue
Zeeland, Michigan 49464
(616) 748-3200
FAX: (616) 748-3210
E-MAIL: shuizeng@zps.org

August 2024

Dear 7th and 8th grade Parents/Guardians,

We offer health education classes at Cityside Middle School. These classes deal with the topic of adolescent growth and change. An effort is made to help the students understand themselves and the issues they will face in their teen years. The following classes include this adolescent growth information; please review your child's schedule to see if they are enrolled.

Challenges - Most 7th graders are scheduled in this 9 week class (either 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th term). *See below if your child does not have Challenges on their schedule.

High School PE and Health - 8th grade students could choose to take this course for high school credit.

If your child is enrolled in one of these classes, please be informed that adolescent issues regarding reproductive health are a part of the instruction. You should know that the idea of abstinence until marriage is presented as healthy behavior and an Advisory Board composed of local parents, clergy, medical professionals and educators supervises the reproductive health portion of the course.

*In accordance with Michigan law, school districts in the State of Michigan are required to teach about dangerous communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Instruction regarding HIV/AIDS must be offered at least once a year at every building level (elementary, middle/junior, senior high school). The content at the middle school level includes: what HIV is and how it is transmitted, behaviors that increase the risk of infection, prevention and where to go for help. This curriculum will be delivered through two closed DEAL sessions during March for those students who are not enrolled in Challenges but need to meet this requirement.

You do have the right to excuse your child from the reproductive health or the HIV/AIDS portions of the course of study; they will be placed in an alternative setting or class during the marking period (Challenges) or unit (High School PE and Health). If you wish to exercise this right, please send a signed written notice by September 6, 2024 to:

**Sarah Huizenga, Principal
Cityside Middle School
320 East Main Avenue
Zeeland, MI 49464**

Your child's grade will not be affected if you choose to exempt him or her from these topics/unit of instruction. If you have unanswered questions about the class or if you wish to examine any of the materials, you are encouraged to contact me or speak with the instructor Veronica Gauthier. Thank you for partnering with us in your child's education.

Sincerely,

Sarah Huizenga

"Together we value the experience of Lifelong Learning"