Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \*\*Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\*\*

CS Section: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Please return by:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Northern Middle School

December, 2014

Dear Parents:

Before our 6th graders begin the unit on human growth and development, I send home a letter to inform you of the unit’s content. I feel it is important for you to know that the lessons taught at Northern Middle School respect the sensitivity of the topic, are age level appropriate, encourage respecting yourself and others and emphasize responsible decisions. Parents have expressed their appreciation knowing what is being studied at school and that it assists them with their follow-up discussions at home.

The lessons and material will be taught during the regular co-ed health class periods, including the lesson utilizing the video on puberty and the reproductive systems. The video and discussions are designed to focus on topics of their sex, and will introduce basic information about the opposite sex. The video includes information on personal hygiene, healthy living, friendships and coping with emotions and adolescent changes. Most importantly, the classroom remains to be a comfortable climate for asking questions, including time to inquire anonymously, and discussion.

Classes will use textbook **Chapter 8** and the unit **study guide packet** for notes and class activities.

Lesson #1. The Beginning of Life and Heredity

1. fertilization, fetus development & birth
2. how twins occur
3. what determines the gender

Lesson #2. Stages of the Life Cycle and the Endocrine System

Changes through infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and late adulthood

Lesson #3. Adolescence: Physical Changes and Reproductive Systems

***Co-ed video: “Always Changing”***

All students will be taught basic parts of both reproductive systems and puberty body changes. Students will also be offered one of two kits.

a. The male kit includes a general pamphlet containing information about topics related to

puberty/hygiene and a sample of *deodorant only (not an antiperspirant.)*

b. The female kit includes a general pamphlet containing information about topics related to

puberty/hygiene, personal/hygiene product coupons, and sample panty liners.

Lesson #4. Adolescence: Mental & Emotional Changes and Developing Responsibility

1. changes in emotions, independence and friendships
2. developing responsibility to ones self, friends, home and community

In the past this unit has generated great interest and discussion on the part of our students. I encourage you as parents to talk with your child and add your values and guidance to their learning.

If you have any questions please contact the middle school – 717.432.8691 ext 1350