



CENTERSTONE

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Your student has the opportunity to participate in a valuable program that Centerstone's Prevention Services will be offering during the 2014-2015 school year at your student's school. *Be in Charge*, an abstinence-based program, will provide students with medically accurate information on teen pregnancy and STD/HIV prevention. The *Be in Charge* program is fully funded by a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health.

For a period of 6-9 days, a trained Prevention Specialist will facilitate *Making a Difference!*, an evidence-based curriculum that uses video clips, games, and skill-building activities around the following topics:

Lesson Topics:

- Steps to Setting and Achieving Goals
- Understanding Adolescent Sexuality and Abstinence
- Responding to Peer/Partner Pressure
- Developing Healthy Attitudes & Beliefs
- Consequences of Sex: Pregnancy, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, HIV
- Refusal and Negotiation Skills
- Medically Accurate Information and Resources

According to Tennessee State Law, Family Life Education is required.

As required by our funding source, at the conclusion of the program, students will participate in a brief demographic survey asking grade, gender, race, primary/secondary language, and if they have taken a class like Be In Charge before. Survey results may help secure funding for teen pregnancy and STD/HIV prevention programs in the future. Student's surveys will be tracked by a random ID number only and not by name.

Be in Charge will be taught in your student's class on these dates (*subject to change*): Sept 30-Oct 9

Program Coordinator, Amanda McGeshick
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Prevention Specialist, Emily Rhoads
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Be In Charge F.A.Q.

Does your program pass out condoms or give students a demonstration/explanation on how to use condoms? Does your program discuss birth control methods?

No, our program is abstinence based and condoms/birth control are not a part of the "Making A Difference!" (MAD!) curriculum. However, when students ask questions about condoms/birth control we provide a medically accurate answer and remind them that abstinence is the only 100% effective method to prevent pregnancies and STD's, including HIV.

Does your program discuss homosexuality?

The MAD curriculum does not discuss/teach homosexuality. It is mentioned in the HIV/AIDS lecture to dispel the myth that HIV/AIDS is a "gay disease". Facilitators do not share personal values and do not allow students to debate the issue or make disparaging remarks on either side of the argument.

Does your program teach abortion as a pregnancy option?

The MAD curriculum does not discuss abortion. When the MAD curriculum asks for students to "brainstorm" the consequences of sexual activity we have had students list "abortion". Facilitators do not share personal values and do not allow students to debate the issue or make disparaging remarks on either side of the argument.

What will happen if my child does not participate in this program?

Alternative classroom placement/activities will be determined by the school administration.

Whether you give permission or not for this program,
Please sign and return this form to school

Centerstone's *Be in Charge*
Program Consent Form

Please **PRINT** the information requested below:

Student's Full Name: _____

Grade: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

Student's Teacher: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

_____ **YES**, I give permission for my student to participate in the *Be in Charge* program and demographic survey. I also understand that I have the right to review the survey questions and all program materials.

_____ **NO**, my student does not have permission to participate in the *Be in Charge* program and demographic survey.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE NOTE:

Students who participate in *Be in Charge* may be given an additional form in the first session for parent/guardian review and signature. This document, an *Informed Consent for Research*, will give permission for youth to provide Centerstone with additional survey information. While optional to participate and not required by our funding source, this survey will measure students' attitudes and knowledge gained from the program and will show a more detailed program impact. Students who complete the additional survey and attend 80% of the classes will receive a spiral notebook.

Thank You ☺