

Waynflete

Dear Parents of Ninth Graders,

Greetings! We'd like to update you on the spring semester of Ninth Grade Seminar. We have embarked on the risk-taking curriculum in Seminar. Students are busy researching various topics to discuss with their peers by focusing on three questions:

1. How would I know if I have a problem?
2. What resources are available to deal with it?
3. What is the best thing you or a supportive friend can do to prevent the risk from happening?

We are always impressed with the attention and care during these peer-to-peer presentations about understanding health and safety risks. A small sampling of their interactive (and sometimes very creative) presentations include "Media Stereotyping," "Sugar Addiction," "Recognizing Hazing," and "Understanding Depression."

On February 4, we will be off-campus for Grade Advising Day. Students from all seminars will come together for a day of experiential learning, intervention role-playing, and a focus on social and emotional well-being. This year, we have added a speaker who will talk about assertiveness training, a critical skill when it comes to speaking up, staying safe, and helping others.

We invite you to attend the upcoming evening for Upper School parents related to our risk-taking curriculum. This will give you a glimpse into the topics we cover in Seminar. The night is entitled:

Speak About It: A Performance-Based Presentation about Consent, Boundaries, and Healthy Relationships.

When: February 9, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
Where: Franklin Theater (Arts Center)
Who: All Upper School Parents

Students in Grades 11 and 12 will see the Speak About It performance on their Grade Advising Day. After watching the performance, students will discuss the impact of the performance in small groups with trained Speak About It facilitators. The parent night

version is intended to provide you with critical and relevant information that your teens will receive—including issues related to consent, sexual assault, and bystander intervention—and to jumpstart critical conversations at home. Because of the vital role parents play in keeping students healthy, supported, and safe, we strongly encourage participation by at least one parent. The event is co-sponsored by the Upper School and the Parents Association.

S.F.S.S. (Students for Safer Sexuality Peer Educators)—Spring Curriculum Update:

Cathie Connors and Lydia Maier co-facilitate the next Seminar unit with Waynflete students who are part of “RAPS” (Raising Awareness and Providing Support). RAPS upperclassmen have undergone training and preparation to lead informational activities on “Healthy Sexuality through the Lifespan” specifically for Ninth Grade Seminar. Several students are returning for a second year of teaching. Each facilitator works with the seminar teacher to create a respectful environment where questions can be asked and accurate information can be shared. Students will have the opportunity to learn about, discuss, and handle birth control devices (although none are distributed). The curriculum has expanded in recent years to include a “Dating Violence Prevention” class.

Topics include:

- *Human Sexuality Throughout the Lifespan*
- *Gender and Sexuality Diversity- Gender Expression and Identity/ Sexual Orientation*
- *Sexually Transmitted Infections*
- *HIV/ AIDS*
- *Preventing Pregnancy and STI's (Sexually Transmitted Infections)*
 - *Methods of Birth Control including Abstinence*
 - *Latex Barriers*
- *Healthy Relationships, Mutuality and Consent*
- *Dating Violence Prevention/ Recognizing Harassment and Abuse/ Cyberspace risks*

Please [email Cathie Connors](#) if you have any questions about the S.F.S.S. curriculum or the Parent Night on February 9. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Lydia Maier, Director of Student Affairs
Cathie Connors, Upper School Dean of Students
Mimi Olins, Ninth Grade Team Leader