

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Robert Crown Center Presentation Permission Slip

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls from Minooka Junior High will be attending a presentation by the Robert Crown Center at MJHS.

Students will be separated by gender and discuss components related to state prescribed curriculum from their health class.

**Please check the appropriate box below.**

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☐ I give permission for my son/daughter to attend the Robert Crown Center presentation at MJHS and participate in the course of study continued at MJHS.

☐ I give permission for my son/daughter to participate in the course of study continued at MJHS but DO NOT give permission for my son/daughter to attend the Robert Crown Presentation.

☐ I DO NOT give permission for my son/daughter to attend the Robert Crown Center Presentation or participate in the course of study continued at MJHS.

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(Student Name)

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(Physical Education Teacher)

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(Parent Signature)

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(Date)

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Dear MJHS Parent or Guardian:

The adolescent years are marked by a roller-coaster ride of emotions—difficult for students, their parents, and educators. It is easy to misread depression as normal adolescent turmoil; however, depression (among the most common of mental illnesses) appears to be occurring at a much earlier age. Depression—which is treatable—is a leading risk factor for suicide. In addition, self-injury has become a growing problem among youth.

To proactively address these issues, and in conjunction with Minooka CCSD 201 Policy 7:290, *Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention*, Minooka Junior High is offering depression and suicide prevention awareness as part of the SOS Signs of Suicide® Prevention Program. This program aims to encourage students who are concerned about themselves or a friend to seek help. Listed on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices, the SOS Program showed a reduction in self-reported suicide attempts by 40-64% in randomized control studies.

Minooka Junior High's goals in participating in this program are straightforward:

- Help students know whom in the school they can turn to for help, if they need it
- Help our students understand that depression is a treatable illness
- Explain that suicide is a preventable tragedy that often occurs as a result of untreated depression
- Provide students training in how to identify serious depression and potential suicidality in themselves or a friend
- Impress upon youth that they can help themselves or a friend by taking the simple step of talking to a responsible adult about their concerns

This program will be presented to all students at Minooka Junior High during the upcoming school year.. As part of the program, students will watch the SOS video and then participate in a discussion led by the MJHS Student Support Services Team. Students will then complete a brief screening instrument. The screening instrument addresses thoughts and feelings that may have not been previously identified.

It does not provide a diagnosis, but rather helps to alert school staff to those students who may be at risk or may require further attention. Students will also complete a Response Card indicating whether or not they would like to speak to an adult at the school about themselves or a friend. The MJHS Student Support Services Team will be available to meet with identified students and will subsequently notify parents/guardians regarding any needed next steps.

If you have any questions, please refer to contact one of the School Social Workers: (8th) Amanda Layne alayne@min201.org or (7th) Anne Kowal akowal@min201.org. Otherwise, if you consent to your child's participation in this program, please sign and return this form. If we do not receive signed consent, your child will not be able to participate in the presentation.

Sincerely,

Minooka Junior High Administration & Student Support Services Team

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I, hereby **consent** to my child's participation in the SOS: Signs of Suicide® Prevention Program at Minooka Junior High during the 2018-2019 school year..

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

August 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. Throughout the year in 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts and literature, students will be participating in activities that will require your permission. In an attempt to reduce the number of permission slips and letters sent home, we are using this letter to cover several important beginning-of-the-year items.

- Novel purchase
- Videos
- Student Google accounts

## NOVELS

Students will need to purchase one or two novels this year depending on their schedule.

**The novel(s) may be purchased through your child's language arts class, or you may purchase the novel(s) on your own.** It is important to know that the reason behind purchasing the books is to allow students to write, highlight, and annotate on the actual pages of the book. Library books would not be suitable for this purpose. Information will be sent home in the spring, closer to the unit(s) of study.

## VIDEOS

During the year videos and video clips are occasionally used to enhance students' understanding of material studied. Because we will be studying topics such as the Holocaust, mature material relating to this and other topics will be included. If you are concerned and would like to discuss the videos used in class, please contact us. Listed below are the videos we generally use in part or whole in relation to our novels. Please indicate which films, if any, your child does **NOT** have permission to view.

### Holocaust/genocide themes

- ☐ *Life is Beautiful* PG13
- ☐ *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* PG13
- ☐ *Valkyrie* PG13
- ☐ *The Devil's Arithmetic* NR
- ☐ *The Diary of Anne Frank* NR
- ☐ *Paperclips* G
- ☐ *The Book Thief* PG13

### Suspense themes

- ☐ *And Then There Were None* NR

### Diversity/friendship themes

- ☐ *Charley PG*
- ☐ *Flowers for Algernon NR*

### Utopia/dystopia themes

- ☐ *The Truman Show PG*
- ☐ *The Giver PG 13*
- ☐ *Fahrenheit 451 NR*

## STUDENT GOOGLE ACCOUNTS

Minooka District 201 set up Google accounts for student use. We will be using the Google platform for most of our student work and collaboration including: Google Docs for word processing, Google Presentation for visual presentations, along with a few of the other Google features like Google Classroom. These are all free services offered by Google.

With this account, it is the responsibility of each student to use it **for school purposes only**. Because the account is administered by the school district, it is important that students and parents understand that there is no expectation of privacy. In fact, ALL accounts owned by Minooka District 201 are under the regulation of the district which is legally required to archive all activity. This simply means that accounts cannot be deleted and can be viewed by district administration at any time. Students will be required to follow the "Acceptability of Use" policy stating that this account will be used for school purposes only.

Students will receive their accounts within the first few days of school. These accounts will also be accessible from home. As technology grows and changes, we are excited about each new possibility that arises.

At any time throughout the year, please feel free to call the school if you have any concerns.

With kind regards,  
8th Grade Language Arts

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name/Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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