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Choctaw Nation Better Beginnings

SMART Program

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Choctaw **SMART** Program will be implementing an evidence- based educational curriculum, Positive Potential in **School Districts located in Choctaw, McCurtain, Pushmataha, Bryan, Pittsburg and Atoka Counties.** The Positive Potential Curriculum will be taught to Middle Schools students in grades 6th, 7th and 8th. This Program is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Population Affairs. The project goal is to have a significant impact on reducing rates of teen pregnancy by replicating evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention program in middle school. These counties have some of the highest teen pregnancy rates in Southeast Oklahoma. This program helps students learn ways to prevent HIV infection, other sexually transmitted disease (STD), and pregnancy. Each grade level will receive age-appropriate lessons that progress with the students as they move on to the next grade. The Positive Potential lessons emphasize that choosing not to have sex is the safest choice. All lessons will be taught by trained instructors from the Choctaw Nation SMART Program during the school day. **The 8thGrade students will receive 5 lessons.** In the 5 core lessons students will learn and practice ways to resist pressure. The Positive Potential program includes homework activities to help students and parents/guardians talk about personal limits. This homework is voluntary, and students will not share their answers in class. You are welcome to preview the Positive Potential materials. Please contact **Christi Hammons** at **580-326-8304** to arrange a preview time and answer any questions you may have about the program.

Please review the information below, sign and return this form to the school.

Thank You for Your Support

8th Grade curriculum Positive Potential Goals:

The primary goal for the Positive Potential program is to provide information that will enable students to understand that they are valuable and that attached to that value is purpose. We believe that every one of the students has a significant role to play in society. Furthermore, we want them to acknowledge that if they can just catch a glimpse of who they really are and discover what they are capable of doing, they can have a vision to succeed, thereby creating a positive legacy. When a student has the understanding that every decision they make can have an effect on one if not all of The Five Parts to their Whole Person (Physical, Emotional, Mental, Social, and Spiritual) combined with their understanding of value and legacy, their chances of success in life are greatly improved. But how will they know what to do? Positive Potential provides them with the necessary skills and tools to use when faced with common everyday challenges. By incorporating refusal skills and reinforcing positive youth development, the

students can become more confident in themselves and in their ability to take on life's greatest challenges.

Informed Consent 8th Grade Positive Potential:

It is the Choctaw Nation's interest to analyze all the aggregated data collected from the total student body and share those results with the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Population Affairs, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and School Board Professionals upon request if they so desire. Data will represent the total study population which includes schools in Choctaw, McCurtain, Pushmataha, Bryan, Pittsburg and Atoka counties with similar demographics, but could be drafted by individual school districts to inform school professionals of future curricula materials that may be beneficial to their individual school.

Please check one of the choices below, sign and return to school.

I give permission for my child to participate in the Positive Potential Program, in which study personnel will gather the data necessary to evaluate the program's success from my child's participation. It is further understood that precautions will be taken to protect my child's confidentiality.

I do not give my permission for my child to participate in the Positive Potential Program.

Parent or Authorized
Guardian Signature

Print Name

Date

Student Signature

Print Name

Date