

Dear 5th Grade Parents/Families,

PS 261 provides focused, comprehensive school based health and human development sessions for our 5th graders. The sessions will begin the week of February 25th and will consist of five Student sessions.

As we know, issues of health & development will come up in school, in peer conversations and, of course, at home. Our goal with these sessions is to identify and frame the social and emotional and biological changes in puberty for the kids. We'll do this through low-pressure and largely student-centered activities; it's important for our 5th graders to feel safe and supported as they learn about (and experience!) the changes to come.

## Student Sessions

Each 5th grade class will have five sessions facilitated by me, Ekem Merchant-Bleiberg, a veteran health educator. The classroom teachers will also be present for these sessions.

If you would not like your child to participate in these workshops, please contact your child's teacher and they will make other arrangements for your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. I can be reached via email at ekem.merchant@gmail.com

Thank you, Ekem Merchant-Bleiberg