

# Archbishop Ryan High School

11201 Academy Road | Philadelphia, PA 19154-3397

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*Belong Believe Become*

*Office of the Principal*

October 16, 2013

Dear Parents,

Safe Environment lessons will be presented to our high school students **on October 28 and 29, 2013**. The intention of these lessons is to supplement the conversations that you are already having with your child about his/her personal safety.

Sexual abuse of children is a difficult subject to discuss. The truth is that an estimated 40 million US adults are survivors of child sexual assault. One in ten men and one in four women report that they were sexually assaulted as minors.

These alarming statistics can help us to recognize the real and often hidden dangers in our society and the need for education to prevent child sexual abuse.

The lessons presented on **(October 28/29)** are as follows:

## **Freshman Year**

Students will view "The Gift of Innocence" which is a 20 minute video and guided discussion which addresses the issues of sexual violence and why teens do not come forward to report or seek assistance. The video discusses sexual violence from a religious, legal and victim perspective and encourages teens to seek assistance. Students will learn:

- Sexual violence is a crime;
- Sexual violence is never the victims fault;
- Sexual violence is the offender's fault; and
- The victim's dignity as a person is never diminished in the eyes of God.

## **Sophomore, Junior and Senior Year**

Students will view parts I, II and III, respectively of a series, "Called to Protect for Youth". This video and discussion lesson provides information on the three types of boundaries that can be violated. They include physical, emotional and behavioural boundaries. Students will learn:

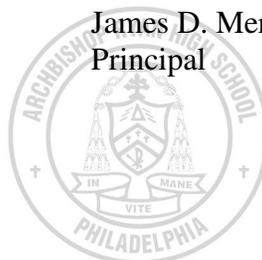
- To be able to define and identify the three types of boundaries;
- To be able to give examples of how child abusers try to violate kids' boundaries; and
- To know that most adults in their life care about them and want the best for them.

If you do not wish your child to view the video and participate in the classroom discussions, please complete the form following this letter.

Please call me if you have questions about the Safe Environment lessons. May God continue to bless and guide all that we do to keep children safe.

Sincerely,

James D. Meredith  
Principal



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## SAFE ENVIRONMENT LESSON OCTOBER 28/29, 2013

### PARENT/GUARDIAN REQUEST TO EXCUSE STUDENT

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer that my child not be present for this class.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

