



"Growing the total child in wisdom, age, and grace."

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Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

August 2023

Dear Parents of St. Helen Catholic School Students:

Welcome to a year of change! Please be patient with us as we experience "growing pains." We are so glad you choose us to help educate and nurture your child to "grow in wisdom, age, & grace."

During the school year, teachers will be discussing the Archdiocesan program of study on Catholic family life. Our school has adopted the Benzinger program which provides a moral catechesis for children in Kindergarten through eighth grades. The Benzinger family life program places human sexuality within the context of Christian moral living. This program will be integrated within our religion curriculum and regular religion classes taught throughout the school year. Please review the online resources that will be sent home with your child or contact your child's religion teacher for more information.

We recognize that you, as parents, are the primary educators of your child. We support this role and acknowledge your right and duty to choose the most appropriate method of family life education for your child. We invite you to allow us to join with you as partners in this important mission. **If you have any questions concerning the program, please contact your child's religion teacher.** We will be happy to answer all of your questions and can provide an opportunity for you to review the materials, which are available in the school library. Your role in this process is vital to the success and understanding of the program.

Below is the permission form that we ask you to complete indicating whether or not your child has your approval to participate in the program (**in many cases, the program may not be presented to your child until the Spring 2024 semester**). Please return this form by **Thursday, August 10, 2023.** Students will not be allowed to participate in this program without parent approval.

God's Blessings,

Phyliss Coleman, Ed.D.
Principal

Benzinger Family Life Approval Form

My child, _____, *has my approval* to attend the scheduled classes in Family Life education. I welcome the school as a partner in my child's education.

My child, _____, *does not have my approval* to attend the scheduled classes in Family Life education. I understand that it becomes my sole responsibility to carry out my child's education in human sexuality, and that I may need to supervise my child during this instructional time at school while others are receiving the instruction.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

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****FOR TEACHER FILES****