

Our Family's Traditional Values Letter

(Non-Religious)

Parent(s)/Guardians: _____

Parent's email: _____ Phone: _____

Student: _____

Family Address: _____

School Board: _____

School: _____ School Address: _____

Grade Level (as of the date of the form): _____

Date: _____

Dear Principal(s) / Teacher(s):

I/we wish to thank the school for its commitment to my/our child and his/her education. As a parent(s)/guardian(s) I/we understand the responsibility of being "Partners in Education" and are committed to working with the school to achieve the best for my/our child.

As educators in a multicultural community, the school instructs children from many cultural and spiritual backgrounds. As a pluralistic Board of Education, Hamilton Wentworth District School Board attempts to respect and understand the values of all faiths and cultures that attend. An understanding of the cultural and spiritual background of each child helps the teacher(s) to **connect the learning in the classroom to the child's cultural and spiritual understandings** (Standards of Practice in the Teaching Profession, http://www.oct.ca/standards/standards_of_practice.aspx?lang=en-CA), and to not accidentally undermine the values taught at home.

As a family, we adhere to a set of values based on traditional spiritual and/or moral principles. I/we believe that it is our responsibility, to teach these values to our children and the application of these values is important in the development of our children.

To assist the school, I/we have included the attached information that is intended to identify some of the issues that we would find sensitive and controversial. My/Our request is that whenever concepts or values are presented that may conflict with the values of the home, the teacher(s) will contact me/us prior to instruction. With an understanding of what is to be taught, I/we may choose to not have my/our child participate, or choose to include my/our child in the instruction and have a family discussion about what was learned. Either way, we are interested in helping him/her to better understand who they are and how they fit within a multi-cultural, multi-faith community.

I/We appreciate being able to share this with the school. Thank you for your respect and understanding.

Sincerely,

Signature of Parent/Guardian (or the child if 18 years of age or older)

Issues In Education Form

Considering the **secular humanistic** approach often applied to subjects and issues within public education, I/we request that we be advised prior to my/our child's involvement in any activity or program containing the following issues and topics:

a. Values/Religious Instruction

1. ___ Values neutral education - indoctrination of students in "moral relativism" and principles of situational ethics. This "ism" is a central tenet of the religion of "Secular Humanism";
2. ___ Occultic principles and practices - witchcraft, black magic, spirit guides, Satanism, wizardry, new age, channelling, astrology, horoscopes, psychic powers and other such practices
3. ___ Environmental Worship - placing environmental issues/concerns above the value of traditional family values
4. ___ Other (please explain) _____

b. Family Life & Sex Education

1. ___ Instruction in sex education
2. ___ Discussion or portrayals of sexual conduct that we consider to not be age appropriate (anal sex, oral sex, sadism, masochism, bestiality, fetish, bondage, etc.);
3. ___ Discussions or portrayals of homosexual/bisexual conduct and relationships
4. ___ Discussion of portrayals of transgenderism;
4. ___ Teaching about or provision of birth control drugs and/or devices, without parental consent;
5. ___ Teaching that abortion is an acceptable method of birth control and that life does not begin at conception;
6. ___ Encouraging the acceptance of infanticide or euthanasia;

c. Medical Treatment

___ As long as I remain liable under the Family Law Act of Ontario to provide support to my child, I request that all employees and agents of the school board refrain from counselling, treating, or referring my child for non-emergency treatment, admission to a care facility, or personal assistance services within the meaning of the Health Care Consent Act of Ontario, without my knowledge and prior consent; subject only to a written waiver of this instruction for particular forms of treatment in specified circumstances, and circumstances qualifying as "emergencies" under that statute.

I/We request that:

1. ___ My/our child not be approached for his/her consent to participate in any of the above activities, with the intent to nullify this communication; and
2. ___ As the Ontario College of Teachers' 'Standards of Practice in the Teaching Profession (1999 & 2006)' encourages teachers to '**connect learning to the child's life experiences and cultural and spiritual understanding**'(1), this information will be important for a teacher who is educating the child. Therefore, it is requested that teachers who will be in contact with the child be informed about this communication, and that this document be made available in the child's OSR.

... "an OSR will contain additional information identified as being conducive to the improvement of the instruction of the child."(2)

References

- 1 Standards of Practice http://www.oct.ca/standards/standards_of_practice.aspx?lang=en-CA
- 2 Ontario Student Record Guideline 2000, Section 3