



Gull Lake Community Schools, 11775 East. D.Ave., Richland, MI 49083

January 22, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are a growing health problem for teenagers in Kalamazoo County. Kalamazoo County ranks in the top 10 for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in Michigan. Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and other STDs often have no symptoms. The only way most people know they are infected is if they get tested. Left untreated, STDs can cause serious damage that can make it hard or even impossible to have children in the future. **Having an STD also makes it easier to get or spread HIV.**

Concerned about the future health of young people in our community; Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services and Gateway Academy is offering an STD education and testing program for all students on Friday, March 11. *Taking the STD test is **totally voluntary**.* During our program, students **learn** about STDs, including how to prevent them, and then have the opportunity to take a **free urine test** for chlamydia and gonorrhea. Anyone who tests positive for either infection receives **free treatment** – a single dose of antibiotics: Azithromycin (Zithromax) and/or Ceftriaxone (Rocephin). All test results and treatment records are confidential. As required by law only the student, neither the school nor parent has access to this information.

All students can benefit from this program! Whether or not they choose to be tested, they all get important health information to help **prevent** STDs in the future.

We hope your son or daughter will participate. However, if you **do not** want them to, please tear off the form below and **return** it to Lynnette Walker, Coordinator of Gateway Academy. If you have questions, or would like us to note your child's allergies, please contact Becky Harrison at Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services at 269-373-5235 or Penny Born 269-373-5264.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynnette Walker".

Lynnette Walker, Coordinator

Gull Lake Community Schools, Gateway Academy

☐ I do not want my child to participate in the STD education and testing event held on March 11, 2016.

Name of Student: _____ *print clearly*

Parent Name: _____ *print clearly*

Parent's Signature: _____

