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To Whom It May Concern:

I've had the pleasure of experiencing "Pride Not Prejudice" on February 25, 2009. It was an awesome experience for my approximately forty students, colleagues as well as for me. This is an engaging workshop in which my students were afforded the opportunity to view HIV, STIs, as well as relationships in a real but non-threatening light. The interaction between the actors and students were most rewarding because it was an experience that reinforced some of the concepts taught in our comprehensive Health Education curriculum.

I highly recommend "Pride Not Prejudice" as it is a definite asset to the curriculum. It also gives the students an opportunity to think about their own behavior and the accompanying consequences **prior to** those experiences.

Attached please find student responses to the workshop written the next class period (February 26th). Courage was a topic that we were covering prior to the workshop.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Reaves-Bey
Health Teacher

THIS IS THE ACTUAL "DO NOW" ASSIGNMENT FOR FEBRUARY 26TH

1. Look at the handout entitled "HIV and Pride – A message from Rhonda – Commonly asked questions." This was the handout given at the workshop in the cafeteria yesterday. If you were not there or do not have one, get one from the front.
2. Answer the following questions:
 - a. What is the most important message HIV and Pride offers?
 - b. How does it take courage to achieve this?

RESPONSES:

"The most important message HIV and Pride has to offer is to care about yourself, always be safe, and that everyone is special. The easiest way to not receive an STD is to remain abstinent. It takes courage to achieve this because things like HIV are very tough and it takes courage to go through it."

- A male sophomore

"I think the most important message HIV and Pride offer is to talk when one is in trouble. It takes courage because it could be scary and intimidating to talk to someone about something personal."

- A 16 year old female junior

"The best way to stay HIV negative is to stay abstinent."

- A male junior

"Care about who you are. You are a unique, wonderful individual; be safe. It takes courage to achieve this because it is looking death right in the face and you're either going to fight or give up."

- A female junior

"The most important message is to take care of yourself, ask questions and trust no one."

- A female senior

“To always be protected and never let your partner influence you to have unprotected sex. It takes courage because it gives you a sense of pride for yourself by just saying no to unprotected sex...”

- 17-year old male

“To care about yourself and to be safe. Also, if you care about what you are doing, others will too. It takes courage to achieve this by just being strong and standing up for yourself, and doing what’s right whether it makes you ‘uncool’ or whatever.”

- A female junior

“The most important message HIV and Pride offer is that there are many ways you can protect yourself. One way is to get the courage to get yourself and partner tested without making your partner think you don’t trust them. I learned never to underestimate the fact that you could get this virus.”

- A female junior

“The important message of HIV and Pride offers is to always wrap it up. Always use a condom.”

- A 17-year old junior

“The most important message HIV and Pride offers in my opinion is that if you are infected with HIV there are many places you can to get help. Even in school, there are teachers or other adults you can speak to if you don’t want or know how to tell your parents. It takes courage to achieve this because if you want to get your sickness under control, and get the right health care, you must go see someone about it in order to live longer than the expected life span of someone with HIV.”

- A female junior