



Family Life Information for Parents

What is Family Life?

The State of Tennessee defines "Family Life education" as an abstinence-centered sex education program that builds a foundation of knowledge and skills relating to character development, human development, decision making, abstinence, contraception, and disease prevention. Family Life law can be found in Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 49-6-1304.

What topics are covered in Family Life?

All Family Life lessons include age-appropriate topics based solely on Tennessee Health Education Standards. The goal of the Family Life program is to provide factual information, including growth and development, reproduction, pregnancy, and childbirth. The program promotes the development of healthy relationships in the present and the future. Decision-making skills are incorporated to avoid the effects of negative peer pressure. With accurate information, students are better prepared to make healthy choices and hopefully reduce substance abuse, child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, diseases, and teen pregnancy. Again, this is done through stressing abstinence from risk behaviors as the healthiest choice. To review the state standards, please go to btcs.org under *Resources>Family Life* for a link to the Tennessee Department of Education standards.

Who teaches Family Life?

Family Life is taught by trained instructors in the school district. This includes counselors and physical education/wellness teachers.

When will Family Life be offered?

Family Life will be offered at Bristol Tennessee City Schools to all fifth through ninth grade students during the 2023-2024 school year. A schedule of instruction dates is posted at btcs.org under *Resources>Family Life*. If you want your child to participate in these classes, you will not need to do anything. However, if you do not want your child to participate in these classes, you may opt them out. Opt-out information is available at the above-mentioned website. Students who do not participate will be given an alternate assignment during these classes.

What curriculum is used to teach the Family Life state standards?

BTCS primarily uses ETR's HealthSmart, which is one of the health education curriculums recommended by the Tennessee Department of Education. All curriculum materials will be available for parent review prior to your child's Family Life instruction. Male and female students are separated for instruction.

Please contact the Secondary Curriculum office at (423) 652-9234 if you have questions.