Dear Parents,

Our school is committed to being an inclusive community where all students feel welcome. We celebrate and support the diversity of our students, and believe that by doing this, we are modeling the collaboration and understanding that students will need throughout their lives to be successful in an ever-changing world.

We are excited by the opportunity to partner with Gender Spectrum to work with the students and families at ___________ School around the topic of gender and gender diversity. Education on this topic is especially relevant, timely, and important. As an organization dedicated to creating greater inclusion and acceptance for all children, Gender Spectrum’s work in classrooms is perhaps the most effective way to help young people learn about gender, their own, as well as that of their peers.

At least one student at ___________ is transgender, and will be openly transitioning this year from the sex the child was assigned at birth to the child’s authentic and affirmed gender. As with all of our students, we are working with this child and the child’s family to make sure the experience is a safe and positive one. We are also committed to supporting all of our children and families to understand this issue and invite them to also support this particular child and family. Consistent with our mission, we are confident that regardless of individual values and beliefs about this topic, this child, like every child at _____________, will be treated with kindness and respect.

Activities with students will be taking place in the [LIST GRADES] grade classrooms. Tuned to each grade level, the activity will involve a single lesson lasting approximately 40 minutes. Building on the school’s vision for “students to care about other human beings and respect individual differences,” the workshops will introduce and reinforce the following key ideas:

- Gender is about all the different ways there are to be a boy or a girl…and more
- Every person has a gender
- Gender is really interesting and includes the way we feel inside, the way we like to dress and the things we like to do, and the bodies we were born with
- We all have a right to be ourselves and be treated with kindness and respect.
- Ways to help transgender students feel safe and welcome at school

It is also important to know what the lessons will not include. The activities presented are not puberty or sex education; they do not specifically mention reproductive processes or terminology. These lessons are also not about sexual orientation, which is distinct and different from gender. Like disability, race, religion and nationality, gender is a form of diversity that is actually a “protected class” in the state of California. As with all types of diversity, it is important for students to not only understand their own experiences, but those of the peers and community members surrounding them, both currently and in the future.

Like other aspects of identity, gender comes in many forms and children must be able to learn and be in community with those different from themselves. At the end of the day, the work that our school is doing with Gender Spectrum is about creating a safer, more accepting school environment in which all children can learn and thrive.

We will also be conducting a parent education session, and will answer any questions that parents have, before the lessons conducted in the classroom take place. The parent education session is scheduled for ___________ at _______ PM in [LOCATION].

Thank you in advance for helping ___________ School be an inclusive community. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at ____________

Warm Regards,

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