

February 6, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are pleased to announce that in partnership with the Diocese of Lansing, we present to you an online version of the **kNOw** program for the safety of our child(ren). The **kNOw** Program is designed to equip children, parents/guardians, schools and parishes with the tools to “**kNOw**” how to identify, thwart, and report harmful behavior.

This program relies on the fundamental truth that each child is created and loved by God Himself and deserves to be safe and cared for. This is a *life skill* for our children.

Using methods developed by Mr. Fred Rogers, a great child educator of our time, and endorsed by physicians at the University of Michigan, The **kNOw** Program delivers life lessons about safety, respect, and empowerment in an accessible and trustworthy way to both children and adults.

One important *key ingredient* of The **kNOw** Program that sets us apart from all the other programs is the adult participation; the key adults in children’s lives. To keep our children safe and deter predators, we must educate adults in how to identify and respond to signs of abuse and reports of harm. Because of this, children and their parents/guardians will participate together in The **kNOw** Program. We offer training sessions based on grade levels:

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

3rd Grade – 5th Grade

6th Grade – 8th Grade Girls

6th Grade – 8th Grade Boys

- Please watch the **kNOw Program Introduction Video** first so you understand how this program works and how it will be delivered to you and your child.
- We invite you to use the **kNOw Parent Short Guide as a resource and for notes.**

<https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/human-resources/know-program>

In the meantime, if you have questions, please call or email me at 517-592-5718 or Nancy.carter.dre.strita@gmail.com

We remain committed to the protection our parish families through a quality safe environment program and are looking forward to your participation and support.

Sincerely,

Nancy

OPT-OUT FORM FOR **kNOw** Program (Kindergarten - 8th Grade)

Dear parents and guardians,

Pursuant to Article 12 of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, we are required to offer safe environment education and training for minors enrolled in our school/religious education program each year. This educational program also includes parent/guardian/adult participation.

Our parish / school will present the **kNOw** program virtually, at home, by/with parents this year. To access it, go to <https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/human-resources/know-program>

As a parent/guardian, you have the right to choose whether you want to participate in this program. If you have questions about the program or its contents please contact

Name: Nancy Carter, Title Director, Religious Education

Phone: 517-592-5718

Email: Nancy.carter.dre.strita@gmail.com

If you determine that you DO NOT want your child to participate, please complete the "opt-out" form at the bottom of this page, and return it to your child's teacher no later than Sunday, February 20, 2022.

Presentation Preference/Opt Out Form : kNOw Program (Kindergarten - 8th Grade)

Parent's/Guardian's name (printed): _____

Child(ren)'s name(s) and grades: _____

School/Patrish: St. Rita Catholic Parish City: Clarklake

~~St. Rita~~ DOES NOT DOES have my permission to present the kNOw program to my child(ren) on _____ (date) (Not an option for 2021-2022 school year)

We will be showing the kNOw program to our children at home

We will NOT be showing the kNOw program to our children at home.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____