

Dear Family,

August 2021

Our world history class will be reading several articles on changes that are occurring in human reproduction that include aspects of biology, sociology, and psychology. These changes are called assisted reproductive technology, or ART.

ART will be presented to students as a “second sexual revolution.” The first sexual revolution occurred during the Neolithic transformation, a time period of world history that saw a change in human fertility cycles that increased from twice to twelve times per year. This six-fold increase in human reproduction accompanied agriculture and husbandry and various forms of writing. We are still living under the influence of these changes, but ART is redefining how humans reproduce.

ART is world-wide and includes procedures and processes that use in-vitro fertilization, embryo freezing, storage, retrieval, and implantation, mitochondria replacement therapy, and surrogacy. Students will also learn of possible side-effects that may accompany ART, as well as the legal rights and responsibilities of both various donors and the children whose lives began as the result of ART.

During the last weeks of our world history class we will be discussing the social, economic, and political implications of ART so students may begin writing their required research papers. The discussions will be of mature nature as the topic of changes in human reproduction includes concepts from sex-education and human development. In order to promote an intellectually safe learning environment for all students, please know that students may select an optional writing assignment from either the suggestions below or one of their own choosing.

Optional research topics may include:

- The Contributions of Hawaiian Slack-Key Guitar to the Music Industry
- Buddhism in Hawaii
- The Reformation and Christian Themes in Art History
- Rising Sea-Levels and the Future of Coastal Areas
- Pandemics from the Past
- Student Initiated Topics

All research papers will be due on or before December 4 (Block) or on or before May 7 (Alternating or Spring Block). Students who select optional topics will be afforded virtual library time during class discussions of and writing periods for changes in human reproduction. All topics will receive equal consideration for grading and all research papers must have a thesis, evidence supporting the thesis, paragraph transitions, a minimum of five footnotes or in-text citations and a Bibliography or Works Cited page with a minimum of ten sources.

Please sign this letter as acknowledgement that your son or daughter will turn in on or before _____, a required research paper in one of the following categories:

Option A: Changes in Human Reproduction

Option B: Optional Research Topic

Parent or Guardian Signature
Student Name

Parent or Guardian Signature
Student Name