

Dear St. Ambrose K-8 Parents and Guardians,

March 10, 2023

To assist in the monumental mission of protecting children from abuse, St. Ambrose Catholic School and the Diocese of Springfield are partnering with you to present a safe environment lesson to your child(ren) within our religious education curriculum. It is our cherished role as adults to fully protect children. In addition, we must also teach children about their safety rights and boundaries, so that they have tools to protect themselves. This year, your child will be presented Lessons 1 and 2. Posted to the school website are Lessons 1 and 2. These are available for parental review.

**Empowering God's Children Program Information:**

A program for children presented by Lesson Leaders, each lesson includes an age-appropriate video component along with engaging learning activities. The material is designed to better equip your child to know their safety rights, recognize their boundaries, and to empower them to protect themselves when safe adults are not immediately available—and ultimately be safer from people who might want to harm them.

Lesson 1: *Physical Boundaries: Safe and Unsafe Touching Rules*  
Lesson 2: *Safe Adults, Safe Touches and Special Safe Adults*  
Lesson 3: *Boundaries: You Have Rights!*

Lesson 4: *Secrets, Surprises and Promises*  
Lesson 5: *Being a Safe Friend*  
Lesson 6: *Boundaries: Feelings and Facts*

Research shows that child sexual abuse prevention is most effective when there is a partnership between parents and the faculty and staff, when material is reiterated in a school setting, and when the training is interactive and activity based. As the primary educators of your children, parents and guardians are encouraged to review these materials ahead of time. Please review the lessons on your own to start these vital safety conversations at home. Please review the *Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide*, also attached to the school website designed to help facilitate conversations between parents and children. Thank you for your partnership with us to protect youth.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

Date of Training – Week of April 3-5 or April 12-14

**Please note:** Parents and Guardians may “opt out” their children from these safety lessons. If you choose to opt your child out, please print and detach the form below and return it to your child’s teacher.

**TO OPT-OUT THE CHILD FROM THE SAFETY LESSON, RETURN THIS PORTION TO:**

Your child’s teacher or the school office by Friday March 31, 2023.

I, *(printed name of parent or guardian)* \_\_\_\_\_, have reviewed the actual safety lessons and DO NOT give permission for this location to present the *Empowering God's Children* Safety Lesson to my child *(printed name of child)* \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_