

## Chapter IV Notification – Concepts of Physics

Dear Parent/Guardian

The science curriculum in the Williamsport Area School District, in an attempt to conform to Chapter IV Regulations (Pennsylvania Science and Technology academic standards and the Pennsylvania Ecology and Environment academic standards) and current topics, issues, and technologies in our society will include some subjects that may be considered controversial. In particular, the study of evolution, natural selection and origin of the universe is mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at both the middle and high school levels.

You may review the entire content of these standards on the web at <http://tinyurl.com/k2fm>

Specific topics that are covered in the course or arise during classroom discussion include:

- The origin and evolution of the universe
- The spatial relationships and motion of celestial bodies
- The origin of chemical elements
- Star birth, life, and death
- Relationships between scientific, political, and religious institutions
- Impact of historical events and figures on the development of science, technology, and society.

I recognize that the discussion of these and similar topics may be controversial and that the opinions and values of a diverse population in a public school classroom may vary considerably. At no time will I expect or insist that students accept, internalize, or otherwise believe the view, hypothesis, theory, or evidence that is shared. Instead, students will be asked to think critically about various dogmas as they adopt their own worldview. Students will, however, be expected to respond to written prompts (classwork, homework, or assessment tasks) based on the learning activities.

We share a collective responsibility to uncover difficult questions and to encourage all students to search for answers to fundamental questions regarding the origin and continuity of our universe and hope that you will value and support our scientific method, even if you might not personally share our positions. I would be happy to answer specific questions about course content and instructional materials.

In accordance with Williamsport Area School District policy, parents or guardians who wish to have their child excused from specific instruction which conflicts with religious beliefs should put the request in writing and send it to our building principal, Mr. Bruce Elliott at Williamsport Area High School, 2990 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

Sincerely,

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