

The week of October 30, my son Ryan, who is a ten year old, 4th grade student at the intermediate school, came home from school and asked me what a wet dream and cum was. I told Ryan he was not old enough to need to know about that yet, and I asked him why he was asking me. Ryan told me that he had an assignment in health class today, and when he was researching the website he and his whole class read all about puberty and other kinds of gross and weird stuff.

I asked Ryan to show me the website, which he immediately pulled up on schoology. He showed me where the class was directed to click, under the kids section, and from there the information was endless. The children did not click on an external link to get to this information. No one in the class went "rogue" and left the main site. It took 3 clicks to get to this information.

<https://kidshealth.org/>

From there they were instructed to click on "For Kids" This was a drop down with all of the topics. The section that attracted the most attention from the kids in class was on puberty.

What is also troublesome is that the "For Teens" option was right next to the kids, so it would have been very easy for a child to click on that and see even more obscene and graphic content. There was no block on this page. Kids could have accidentally and easily clicked on the wrong link.

This is an excerpt from the Puberty section that the kids were reading.

What About Erections?

An erection happens when the penis fills up with blood and hardens. The penis will become bigger and stand out from the body. Boys may start to notice erections more often when they reach puberty. They are normal. An erection can happen at any time. You can get many in one day or none at all. It depends on your age, sexual maturity, level of activity, and even the amount of sleep you get. **An erection can happen even when you're sleeping. Sometimes you might wake up and find you had a "wet dream." A wet dream is when semen (the fluid containing sperm) comes out of the penis during sleep.** Semen is released through the urethra — the same tube that urine (pee) comes out of. This is called ejaculation. Wet dreams happen when a boy's body starts making more testosterone. It's a sign the body is preparing for the future when a man might decide to be a father. Semen contains sperm, which can fertilize a woman's egg and begin the process that ends with a baby being born. You can't help having wet dreams, and they are nothing to be embarrassed about. Almost all boys have them at some time during puberty.

My husband and I were absolutely appalled that this was shown to our ten year old son. If there are some of you here, who honestly think that nine and ten year olds are old enough to learn about wet dreams, then that is your opinion. But you must respect the opinions of many other parents and teachers in this community.

For one, when a student does learn about puberty in health class in Ocean City, they are in 5th grade, which I still think is too young, as do many other parents. Second, they are separated by gender, so that these sensitive topics can be taught and learned in a safe and appropriate environment. It is embarrassing and awkward when girls and boys are learning about it together.

Thirdly, the Ocean City School district has an opt out policy, which is something I tried to do in the beginning of the school year. I have all of the emails that went back and forth between myself, the principal, superintendent and health teacher. At the end of the day The health teacher assured me that my son would not be subject to any content related to sexual education and I did not need to opt him out. What is confusing about the opt out policy is you are only allowed to opt out of the "portion" that is in conflict with your conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs. Requests must be presented in a signed statement and include the specific standard for excusal. Well, if the parents are not getting the lesson plans or resources from the teacher, how are we supposed to know when that topic or portion is coming up in class? In this case I was trusting the teacher, but she either forgot, didn't think about it, or didn't even screen the website herself before making it available to 4th graders.

It is my husbands and my own parental right to keep our child from this instruction. I asked multiple times to see the resources that were being used for health class and I was ignored. The disregard for parents rights and beliefs are mind-boggling. If the parents of the 4th grade knew this was being shown to their child I would be shocked if most of them did not want it removed. Where is the transparency? When the new sexual education standards were voted on last year, it was a 6-5 vote. Almost half of the Ocean City representatives here voted against them. I am not alone in my beliefs and the school needs to start respecting and acknowledging all parents rights.