

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Social Issues is a course where students are provided the opportunity to explore various social topics that exist in society through the lens of various literature and media outlets. Throughout the course, students will take on topics that may include but are not limited to:

- Bullying
- Racism
- Ableism & Neurodiversity
- Asian Hate
- Indigenous Histories
- Women in History
- Environmentalism
- “Woke” (Popular) Culture
- Social Media & Self-Worth
- Poverty & Privilege
- Human Rights
- Various Current Events
- International Issues
- Mental Health
- Marginalization
- Black History
- Youth Activism

Guiding our class will be several documents, including the *Guide to Education*, which states, “Controversial issues are those topics that are publicly sensitive and upon which there is no consensus of values or beliefs. They include topics on which reasonable people may sincerely disagree. Opportunities to deal with these issues are an integral part of student learning in Alberta” (*Guide to Education*, 2019-2020).

The goal is to have students inquire about these topics and take on various perspectives that exist around social issues that are very relevant to society today. Students will be able to think critically about how these topics impact our present and future lives. New Horizons understands that studying controversial issues “provides students with opportunities to develop the ability to think clearly, to reason logically, to open-mindedly and respectfully examine different points of view and make sound judgments” (*Guide to Education*, 2019-2020).

While the resources studied raise questions about controversial issues, students will gain a tremendous amount of perspective and empowerment that they may take with them into their future. Over the course of the year, students will be exploring films, short stories, and other media that may be mature. I encourage anyone who has questions about the course to reach out to me and I would be happy to discuss.

Given the nature of this course, please read this letter carefully and return it signed by
September 2nd, 2025.

Please feel free to contact me at ajoly@newhorizons.ca, or call the school at (790)-416-2353.

Allison Joly

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____