Teacher's Letter to Families

Date _____

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the *Stacked Deck* program for the prevention of problem gambling. Your child is starting this important program in my class. Did you know that today's youth are one of the first generations to grow up in an environment of extensive legalized and government-sanctioned gambling? And today, the availability of Internet gambling presents unique issues. Fortunately, our school has this fun, engaging, and effective program to help.

Stacked Deck is designed to

- teach young people the facts about gambling and related risks
- encourage responsible decision making
- prevent young people from becoming problem gamblers

The program teaches youth to approach life as smart risk-takers, weighing the pros and cons of their actions before they act to determine their odds of achieving positive results. *Stacked Deck* includes these key messages:

- Although gambling has been available for thousands of years, modern gambling includes "stacked odds" that create the "house edge."
- Gambling is an activity that can become addictive, and there are recognizable causes, risk factors, and signs of problem gambling.
- Gambling fallacies and erroneous thinking contribute to problem gambling.
- Good decision-making and problem-solving skills and strategies are essential.
- There are ways to overcome the challenges that sometimes seem to block our best decision-making and problem-solving efforts.

Along with the lessons, your child will receive ***News from* Stacked Deck** to share with you. These notes give information and ideas related to each lesson. I hope that your child enjoys *Stacked Deck* and that you find the program helpful.

Sincerely,

Classroom Teacher

Duplicating this page for personal or group use is permissible.