

**As part of our commitment to the safety of your child, Amazing Grace will continue in this new 2011-2012 school year the same major initiatives we began last year including, 1) expansion of our technology integration program for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders using individual laptops; 2) bullying and cyber- bullying prevention for Kindergarten - 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and 3) ongoing personal safety and sexual abuse prevention programs for students in Kindergarten - 8<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**After consultation with professionals from each of these 3 fields we selected programs designed to be comprehensive, age-appropriate and respect parents' role as their children's primary educators,**

**Parents are welcome to review all program materials before their children receive instruction beginning in September 12, 2010. Parents who do not want their children to participate in any of these programs may sign a form to opt out; however, they will be asked to teach the material at home.**

**For children in Kindergarten through fourth grade, we have selected "Talking About Touching," a curriculum created by the Seattle-based non-profit organization Committee for Children. [www.cfchildren.org](http://www.cfchildren.org) The program stresses that no one has the right to touch or see children's private body parts except to keep them clean and healthy. Furthermore, children will learn that they have the right to say "no" to unwanted touch and that they can go to a trusted adult if they feel threatened or uncomfortable.**

**The selected program for students in grades five through eight is KidWISE Institute's "Out of Harm's Way Personal Safety Curriculum." [www.kidwisecorner.com/oohw.html](http://www.kidwisecorner.com/oohw.html) Designed by the Oakland, Calif.-based organization the program focuses on Internet safety, bullying prevention and appropriate touch.**

**The criteria for selecting the programs came from The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's "Guidelines for Programs to Reduce Child Victimization: A Resource for Communities When Choosing a Program to Teach Personal Safety to Children."**

**The criteria include:**

**\_ Developmental appropriateness.**

- \_ Instruction based on accepted educational theories.**
- \_ The ability to address special-needs children.**
- \_ Helping children build self-confidence to better protect themselves in a variety of situations.**
- \_ Multiple program components will be repeated over years.**
- \_ Use of qualified presenters who use role-playing, behavioral rehearsal, feedback and active participation.**

**All teachers and staff have a responsibility to work in partnership with parents to educate their children.**

**We want to give children and parents good information to empower them to be able to make good decisions down the road. The safe environment programs may appear too secular, but the scenarios that are given are realistic situations that could happen in the real world. Our staff have the training and ability to take what one might perceive as a very secular lesson and turn it into a lesson that is based in Scripture and based in Gospel values.**

**These programs are part of a larger, ongoing abuse prevention initiative requiring the participation of all Amazing Grace called ministers, school and education staffs, parents and volunteers who work with children.**

**Along with Washington State background checks for all state certified teachers, Amazing Grace also performs comprehensive background checks, including fingerprinting and review through the FBI National Database files for all ministers, as well as school and church employees and volunteers who have ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors. Training of parents, ministers, educators, church personnel, volunteers and others regularly involved with minors regarding child abuse issues, including child sexual abuse, has been conducted in the past and will continue to be conducted in the future. These safety initiatives formalize what we have been doing for many, many years, in less formal ways.**