Dear Parents and Guardians,

My name is Lisa Gerber, and I am a Senior Humanities teacher at OKM. You are receiving this letter because I have the privilege of having your child in my Genocide Studies 12 class this semester. Below I have provided a brief description of this course as it appears in the OKM Course Selection Booklet.

*Genocide Studies 12 will focus on the origins and development of the term 'genocide' and the economic, political, social, and cultural conditions of genocide. Students will study the characteristics, stages, and strategies involved in the commission of genocide by focusing on acts of mass violence and atrocities in different global regions. Other topics covered in this course may include: the use of technology to promote and carry out genocide; controversies regarding denial and attempts to minimize the scope of genocides; recognition of and responses to atrocities; evidence used to demonstrate the scale and nature of genocides; international law and enforcement, and Canada's roles and responses to genocide. Students will develop an understanding of why, despite international commitments to prohibit genocide, violence targeted against groups of people or minorities remains a challenge to global peace and prosperity.* ***Due to the nature of this subject, this course will include material that may be emotionally and psychologically challenging for some students.***

Thus, given the abhorrent nature of genocide, this course will include material and media that may be challenging for some students. While I have attempted to be diligent in the selection of all resources, some material does have graphic images, language, and sensitive content. As this is a senior level course, and most of my students are nearing adulthood, it is my assumption that they have the maturity to deal responsibly and empathetically with difficult topics, even those that might not be reflective of their own personal values or life experiences. That said, I consistently give students the opportunity to reasonably excuse themselves if they feel uncomfortable. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's ability to participate in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gerber