

Appendix 1: Parent Permission Letter

PARENT'S CONSENT FOR MINOR TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ACTION RESEARCH STUDY **HIGH TECH HIGH GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

Title of Study: **“Reflection and Voice: Changing the Learning Experience for All Students”**

Researcher: Edrick Macalaguim, Graduate Student, High Tech High Graduate School of Education

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Purpose: Your child is being invited to participate in the above research study. The purpose of this study is to investigate various strategies that promote student reflection and voice, as a means to develop students' ability to write and speak with clear and coherent articulation. Through this study, it is my hope that Finney teachers will be able to use these experiences to help shape the direction in which Finney will grow. This project will involve students from my classroom and will not be used in any way to evaluate them, nor will it interfere with your family life or your child's schooling.

Procedures: If you are agreeable to having your child participate in this study, I would meet with your child to talk about their personal learning experiences, what he/she likes about school, activities that have been engaging, and teaching styles he/she has identified that work and don't work for students.

Risks: There are no known risks to your child for participating in this study.

Benefits: It is possible that your child will not benefit directly by participating in this study. However, this study should provide your child with a valuable opportunity to think and talk about his/her learning experiences, future aspirations, as well as an opportunity to participate in projects that are relevant and connect him/her to our community. The opinions gathered in my data will help me to design a better experience for all the students who come through my classroom, leaving them with the necessary skills to succeed in middle school and beyond.

Confidentiality: Absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, since research documents are not protected from subpoena. However, the confidentiality of project records will be maintained to the fullest extent possible. Responses by your child to interview questions will be coded in such a way that her or his identity will be concealed. Your child will never be identified with any particular response, comment or materials that he or she might share with me.

Costs: There is no cost to your child beyond the time and effort required to participate in the activities described above. I will schedule interviews at times that are agreeable to you and your child.

Right to refuse or withdraw: Your child may refuse to participate in this study. If you allow your child to participate, your child has the right to not answer any questions I might ask. Even if you agree, you and your child may change your mind and quit at any point.

Questions: If you have any questions, please contact me at the phone extension or e-mail address above.

Your child's rights: The rights below are the rights of every person who is asked to be in a research study. As a research subject, your child has the following rights:

- 1) To be told what area, subject, or issue is being studied.
- 2) To be told what will happen to them and what the procedures are.
- 3) To be told about the potential risks or discomforts, if any, of the research.

- 4) To be told if they can expect any benefit from participating and, if so, what the benefit might be.
- 5) To be allowed to ask any questions concerning the study, both before agreeing to be involved and during the course of the study.
- 6) To refuse to participate in the study or to stop participating after the study starts.
- 7) To be free of pressure when considering whether they wish to be in the study.

CONSENT: Your signature below will indicate that you have agreed to allow your child to volunteer as a research participant and that you have read and understand the information provided above:

Signature of Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature of Investigator _____ Date _____

Edrick Macalaguim, Graduate Student, High Tech High Graduate School of Education