

## **Finney Elementary School**

3950 Byrd Street San Diego, CA 92154  
Mrs. Olivia Amador-Valerio, Principal  
(619) 690-1334



Date:

Dear Finney Student,

In addition to being a teacher at Finney Elementary, I am also a student in High Tech High's Teacher Leadership Master's Program. As part of this program, I will be conducting a research study to learn more about how **student reflect and articulate their thoughts about school and learning**. I'll be working with many Finney students in this study and would like to invite you to be a part of it. Below is some information to help you make an informed decision:

**Why I'm doing this study:** I am really interested in learning about how Finney students experience learning in their classrooms. What are teachers doing that keeps students engaged in the learning? How do Finney students want their teachers to facilitate class? How do students learn best? I would like to learn more about what students want out of their education and how teachers can make their learning experience better. This year we will be creating lots of cool projects, designed to incorporate all of our subject areas. Together we will learn from each other, and through our journey, I will be able to create better experiences for all of you.

**What will happen to you if you are in the study?** If you participate in this study I may ask you to meet with me to talk about how you feel about school, to learn more about your learning experiences, various activities you enjoy doing in class, as well as some activities that you dread.

**Will any part of the study hurt you or help you?** This study won't hurt you in any way, and it may not help you either. However, this study will provide a chance for you to think and talk about your experiences at Finney. Your opinions will help the teachers at Finney make sure that our school is doing the right things to assist students in surpassing their goals. You may not be around for all of the changes that may occur as a result of this study, but by sharing your experiences, you will be helping me to provide better learning experiences to the new students every year.

**Who will know that you are in the study?** I'm going to keep whatever I hear from you separate from what I hear from other people -- other students or other teachers. I won't tell them what you tell me, and I won't tell you what they tell me. However, I will write an article or report based on the interesting things I will learn in this study. I will also present what I've learned at conferences so that it can be useful to other teachers. In either case, I will conceal your name so that no one will know who you are, or that you did or said a particular thing.

**Do you have to be in the study?** No, you don't. No one will get angry or upset with you if you don't want to do this. Just tell me if you don't want to be in the study. And remember, you can change your mind later if you decide you don't want to be in the study anymore.

**Questions?** You can ask questions at any time. You can ask now. You can ask later. You can talk to me or you can talk to your parents about this study at any time. My work and cell-phone number and e-mail are:

**PH:** (619) 690-1334 ext.3044      **Cell:** (619) 392-2863      **E-mail:** edrick.macalaguim@cvesd.org

In you have concerns about this research, you can also contact my advisor, Professor Robert Riordan who will be supervising this research:

E-mail: rriordan@hightechhigh.org

**To go ahead with this study, I need to know that you are willing to participate and that your choice to do so is entirely voluntary. Please review your rights at the bottom of this page and sign below if you agree to participate.**

Sincerely,

Mr. Macalaguim

**IF YOU AGREE TO BE IN THE STUDY, PLEASE SIGN YOUR NAME BELOW.**

Signature of the Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Teacher Researcher \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The rights below are the rights of every person who is asked to be in a research study. As a research subject, you have the following rights:

- 1) To be told what area, subject, or issue is being studied.
- 2) To be told what will happen to you 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 you 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 you wish to be in the study.