

Parent Consent Form

Project Title	ScienceBEAT: A joint research project with the University of Maryland and Prince George's County Public Schools
Purpose of the Study	<p><i>This research is being conducted by a team of researchers at the University of Maryland, College Park led by Dr. Ronald A. Yaros in the Philip Merrill College of Journalism. We are inviting your child to participate in this research project because he/she is completing a unit on improving his/her understanding of climate change in earth science or English/journalism class. The purpose of this research project is to investigate the use of a reading and writing strategies that focus on improving students' understanding of the many dimensions of climate change.</i></p>
Procedures	<p><i>The procedures in this study, will be implemented in classrooms during the winter/spring of 2016, include the following expectations for your child:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1) Engaging, with the teacher's guidance, six interactive modules about climate change.</i><i>2) Learning to use the reading and writing strategies by analyzing several articles;</i><i>3) Researching arguments, news coverage and scientific data related to climate change;</i><i>4) Preparing drafts of informational text, often with multimedia projects that help to explain climate change;</i><i>5) Revising the drafts;</i><i>6) Submitting a final draft with multimedia when assigned;</i><i>7) Peer review of work produced by other participating students</i> <p><i>The text and multimedia assignments will be used for research purposes only. Any scores on any tests will not be used to assess student work for the class.</i></p> <p><i>During selected weeks of use of the module your child and their teacher will receive brief pre and post-tests to evaluate the effectiveness of each module. Throughout the study, the researchers will be available to answer questions, and your child may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.</i></p>

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Potential Risks and Discomforts	<p><i>If your child participates in the proposed study, some risks include possible anxiety that may develop from the tasks to produce text and/or multimedia on deadline.</i></p> <p><i>We will attempt to address this possible risk by providing supporting materials to teachers that explain the importance of deadlines in “the real world.”</i></p> <p><i>We will remind your child that the assignments related to this climate change project will not be assessed for a grade. Any scores on any tests will not be used to assess their work for the class.</i></p> <p><i>We will also encourage your child to ask questions and seek clarification and will also mention to your child that he/she may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, we will remind all participants that all data are confidential and are stored in password protected computers and locked filing cabinets. If any reports or articles are developed from this study, confidentiality will be protected through the use of code numbers and/or pseudonyms.</i></p>
Potential Benefits	<p><i>There are no direct benefits to participants. However, possible benefits include the opportunity for your child to learn more efficient and effective reading and writing strategies that will help him/her become a more strategic reader of informational text and a more effective producer of informational media. We hope that, in the future, other students might benefit from the results from this study through improved understanding of reading informational texts and writing and producing information text and media.</i></p>
Confidentiality	<p><i>Any potential loss of confidentiality will be minimized by keeping your child’s information and responses confidential, including storing all paper data (notes and transcripts), audiotapes and videotapes in password protected flash drives and computers and locked filing cabinets with researcher access only. After ten (10) years, any digital data will be deleted, and hard copies of data will be shredded. If a report or article develops from this research, your child’s identity will be protected to the maximum extent possible through the use of pseudonyms assigned at the beginning of the study. Your child’s name will not be used at any time during data analyses.</i></p> <p><i>If we write a report or article about this research project, your child’s identity will be protected to the maximum extent possible. Your child’s information may be shared with representatives of the University of Maryland, College Park or governmental authorities if you or someone else is in danger or if we are required to do so by law.</i></p> <p><i>In accordance with federal, state and university legal requirements and/or professional standards, I will disclose to appropriate authorities and individuals information that comes to my attention concerning child abuse or neglect or potential harm to your child or others.</i></p>
Medical Treatment	<p><i>The University of Maryland does not provide any medical, hospitalization or other insurance for participants in this research study, nor will the University of Maryland provide any medical treatment or compensation for any injury sustained as a result of participation in this research study, except as required by law.</i></p>

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Right to Withdraw and Questions	<p><i>Your child's participation in this research is completely voluntary. He/she may choose not to take part at all. If your child decides to participate in this research, he/she may stop participating at any time. If your child decides not to participate in this study, or if your child stops participating at any time, he/she will not be penalized or lose any benefits to which your child otherwise qualifies.</i></p> <p><i>If your child decides to stop taking part in the study, if you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or if you need to report an injury related to the research, please contact the investigator, Ronald A. Yaros, Principal Investigator, at 2100M Knight Hall University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, Phone: (301) 405-2425, Email: ryaros@umd.edu.</i></p>
Participant Rights	<p><i>If you have questions about your child's rights as a research participant or wish to report a research-related injury, please contact:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">University of Maryland College Park Institutional Review Board Office 1204 Marie Mount College Park, Maryland, 20742 E-mail: irb@umd.edu Telephone: 301-405-0678</p> <p><i>This research has been reviewed according to the University of Maryland, College Park IRB procedures for research involving human subjects.</i></p>

Statement of Consent	<p><i>Your signature indicates that you (the parent or guardian) are at least 18 years of age; you have read this consent form or have had it read to you; your questions have been answered to your satisfaction and you voluntarily agree to participate in this research study. You will receive a copy of this signed consent form.</i></p> <p><i>If you agree that your child can participate, please sign your name below.</i></p>	
Signature and Date	NAME OF MINOR PARTICIPANT [Please Print]	
	NAME OF PARENT [Please Print]	
	SIGNATURE OF PARENT	
	DATE	