2/18/2019

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I would also like to share the reason your child came home with this packet. My name is Nikole Kerns. I am a senior at ETSU and a Computer Science major. I am participating in a research internship with the ETSU McNair Program. Dr. Michael Garrett is my research mentor. Under his direction, I am conducting a research project. It involves two of the eighth-grade classes at University High.

I want to know if working out step-by-step methods to solve math problems will be fun, interesting, and beneficial to your child’s future education. The step-by-step method we are doing in this activity requires a certain kind of deep thinking that I had to learn how to do when I came to college. It is the sole reason for why I went into the field I did and why I have such a strong passion for Computer Science.

This study is designed to be a mathematical enrichment activity. The children who participate will have the chance to learn new skills. This can be useful in their school math classes. They might even develop new perspectives of math. It may also help the children to have a good attitude toward math. Details about the research procedures are in the Informed Consent Document, Section C. Procedures.

Additional Information:

1. Your child was given the chance to consider participating in a one-time educational activity. They have shown an interest in participating by bringing this packet home.
2. You and your child should review the enclosed Informed Consent Document. You will sign the Informed Consent Document as instructed in the document if you decide to let your child participate.
3. It is important that your child does not feel any pressure or obligation to participate in this activity. They have demonstrated an interest in becoming a participant by bringing home the packet. This is their verbal assent (or agreement) to participate.
4. Your child must also sign a written assent form after you give your permission by signing the Informed Consent Document. This must take place before any part of the planned activity can begin and your child may change their mind at any time, even after signing the assent form. There is a copy of the assent form in this packet for you and your child to review.
5. Next, you and your child will complete the enclosed survey.
6. Finally, your child should return the Informed Consent Document and the completed survey to their teacher.

Should you have questions, concerns, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [kernsn@etsu.edu](mailto:kernsn@etsu.edu), or (865) 307-6746.

Thank you for your kind consideration regarding the participation of your child in this research endeavor.

Sincerely,

Ms. Nikole Kerns