**PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM**

**TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY – SAN MARCOS**

**Application Number:** 2009I7375

**Prepared by:** Benjamin Kramer, Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership Program, Texas State University – San Marcos. Tel. 512-245-6055; email: bk13@txstate.edu

My signature below indicates that I have read the information provided and have decided to allow my child to participate in the project titled *“Using iPod Technology to Bridge ELLs' Transitions to Mainstream English Classrooms”* to be conducted at my child’s school.

I agree to the conditions listed below with the understanding that I may withdraw my child from the project at any time, and that my child may choose not to answer any questions that he/she does not want to answer.

1. We are asking for permission to include your son or daughter in a study that will take place in your child’s English Language Arts class for 6-9 weeks. Your child’s teacher is working closely with the Principal Investigator on the study and will remain the teacher during its duration.
2. Your student, as a member of an English Language Arts class, may be assigned an iPod for use both in-school and out-of-school during the duration of the project (6-9 weeks in the Fall semester of 2009). If your child is provided an iPod, we will ask him/her to sign out the iPod in the same way that schools assign textbooks to students. The iPod has material on it that is related to the readings and work of the ELA class, and is intended to help understanding of the work and thinking about it. We will ask the student to note the times that he/she uses the iPod outside of class time, and to discuss their uses of the iPod in an interview at the conclusion of the study. At the end of the project, the student must return the iPod; it is the property of Texas State University – San Marcos.

If your child is not assigned an iPod, the only participation expected for the research project is what the teacher requests for the English Language Arts (ELA) classwork.

1. We will be collecting the following data for this project
   1. Coursework grades and copies of written assignments for the 6-9 week duration of the project for each student in the project
   2. District or school-designed assessment results for the 2009-2010 school year for English Language Arts for each student in the project
   3. TAKS Reading and Writing results for the 2008-2009 school year, and for the 2009-2010 year for each student in the project
   4. Transcriptions of interviews conducted with students who were assigned an iPod for the duration of the project. Samples of interview questions include, “When did you most often use the iPod?”; “Which podcasts were the most interesting to you?”; “Which podcasts were the most helpful in understanding and thinking about the reading?” ; “Can you think of other ways to use iPods that would help you in school?” Students are not required to answer questions if they are uncomfortable with the topic.
   5. Observations of classes during the duration of the project
   6. Student biographical information: age, grade, gender, ethnicity, country of origin, language(s) spoken at home and in school

Comparisons will be made between performances of students who were assigned the iPod and students who were not. Additionally, the interviews and observations will be analyzed for information about effective uses of the iPods and classwork, and about student reading and writing practices inside and outside of school.

1. Identity of all participants will be protected in this project. Names of students, teachers, the school, and the school district will all be disguised. Copies of student work will have actual student names blacked out, and pseudonyms or numbers substituted. The data of the project will remain locked in a filing cabinet din the office of the Principal Investigator and/or on a password-protected computer. At the conclusion of the project, all paper copies of student work and records will be shredded.

You, your child, the classroom teacher, school officials and the Principal Investigator are the only people who will have access to the project data with your child’s name. Authorized persons from Texas State University – San Marcos and members of the Institutional Review Board have the legal right to review the research records and will protect the confidentiality of those records to the extent permitted by law.

1. Numerical data will be reported as comparisons between various groups of participants. Comments from individuals in the observations or the interviews may be used with names removed or changed.
2. We see no risk associated with your son or daughter’s participation, and your child may benefit from receiving specific instruction on reading comprehension strategies and vocabulary related to English Language Arts coursework. This study is intended to complement the regular course curriculum, not to replace it.
3. If you decide to allow your child to participate, it will not cost you anything, and you will not be provided any monetary compensation for your participation.
4. Your child’s participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You are free to stop participation in this research study at any time, and your child is not required to respond to questions that do not have to do with the work of the class. If you wish to stop your participation in this research study for any reason, you should contact Dr. Benjamin Kramer at Texas State University – San Marcos at 512-245-6055 or [bk13@txstate.edu](mailto:srvaughnum@aol.com).
5. Your consent is optional. Your decision to allow your son or daughter to participate, or to not allow participation, will not affect your or his or her present or future relationship with Texas State University – San Marcos, Austin ISD, your school, or your child’s teachers, and will not affect your child’s course grades.

1. This project has been reviewed by Austin ISD and by the principal at your child’s school. However, Austin ISD is not conducting the project’s activities.
2. A copy of this signed agreement will remain in your child’s permanent school folder.
3. If you have any questions about the study now or later, please call Benjamin Kramer at 512-245-6055 or email at bk13@txstate.edu. You can also contact Dr. Kramer to request a summary of findings upon completion of the study.

If you have any questions or concerns about this university-approved study, you may contact Dr. Jon Lasser, Chair of Texas State University – San Marcos Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects, 512-245-3413, email: [lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu), or Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist, 512-245-2102.

Thank you very much for your interest. We look forward to working with you and your child. You may keep a copy of this consent form.

Printed Name of Son/Daughter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Date

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principal Date

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Benjamin Kramer, Principal Investigator Date

**STUDENT ASSENT**

I agree to be in a study in my English Language Arts class. This study was explained to my mother/father or guardian and they said that I could be in it. The only people who will know how I do in the study will be the people in charge of the study, my teacher and principal, and my parents.

As part of this study, I know that the work that I do in and out of class in English Language Arts for a 6-9 week period will be examined. I know that my real name will be disguised in any reports on the work. I will be asked for some biographical information, including my age, gender, country of origin, and the languages I use at home and in school. I may also be interviewed or asked questions about this work. Any report on the interviews will not include my real name.

If I am assigned an iPod for this study, I know that I must sign it out and return it in good condition just as I do for textbooks. I will not have a charger for it but I can charge it in class.

Writing my name on this page means that I have read it and that I agree to be in the study. If I decide to quit the study, all I have to do is tell the person in charge. I will still be responsible for all the work my teacher gives me in class but it will not be included in the study. If I feel anxiety about participating in this study, I will contact my school counselor. Declining participation in this study, either at the beginning r in the middle of the study, will not affect my class grades.

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Student’s Signature Date