**Research Information for Students**

**Study Title:** *Relationship between problem solving strategies and brain hemisphericity in High School students.*

Hello, my name is Erin Oliver. I am currently a student teacher, from Texas State University, placed at Clear Creek High School. This semester I will be conducting research in your advisory classroom for my Undergraduate Honors Thesis.

The anonymous results of this study will be used to help establish if a relationship exists between the methods students use to solve math problems, and the side of the brain in which they test dominant. Humans have two brain hemispheres, each of which specializes in certain tasks. Some individuals test to be more left brain dominant, right brain dominant or show no dominance in either hemisphere. The results of this study can help teachers improve the way they teach mathematics in High School.

The study will consist of three tasks for you to complete. The first task is simply a demographic questionnaire. The second task is the Style of Learning and Thinking Questionnaire, developed by Torrance, McCarthy and Smith (1988). This is a 28 question survey which helps determine your brain dominance. Some sample items from the survey are provided below:

*Place a check mark in the blank if the statement is true of you. You may check one or both of the statements in a pair or neither – whatever fits you.*

\_ I tend to solve problems with a playful approach.

\_ I tend to solve problems with a serious, business-like approach.

\_ I like to express feelings in plain language.

\_ I like to express feelings in poetry, song, dance, or art.

The third task that you will complete will be to solve a mathematical word problem. Achieving the correct answer to the problem is not the concern. Rather, we are concerned with the specific methods you choose.

This study will take the entire advisory period, but you will return to your regular schedule after completion. Willingly accepting the survey during the next advisory, will affirm your willingness to participate in this study. If you should choose not to participate, you will remain in class to complete other work. Please indicate your name below if you would like to volunteer to be interviewed after the study has taken place. This interview will contribute to the research and would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your cooperation.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would like to be contacted to participate in a follow up interview.