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Fred G. Martin, Ph.D.

***Associate Professor, Computer Science
Director of Student Success, College of Sciences***

September 14, 2015

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our names are Fred Martin and Diane Schilder. Fred is a faculty member at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Diane is a project evaluator. We are working with your son or daughter's classroom technology or engineering teacher to pilot new computer science curriculum. We expect to provide wonderful new learning opportunities to your son or daughter.

This work is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation called "Middle School Pathways in Computer Science." As part of our research, we will ask your child to complete a survey at the beginning and end of the project unit. The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete, and will ask your child about her or his attitudes toward computer science. Also, we will review your child's classroom work to understand his or her learning during the unit.

All classroom activities will be led by your child's regular teacher. She or he has been working with us to learn the new curriculum.

We are asking your permission to use your child's survey responses and work products in our research. The study has minimal risk of revealing these data. We will not publish your child's name, or anything that could identify him or her in any publications of the research results.

We do hope you will allow us to include your child's data in our study. We will do so only if your child also agrees (gives her or his assent). There are no consequences if your child chooses to not participate in our research. You may withdraw your child or and she or he can withdraw at any time. Your child's classroom education will be the same in any case.

Our research study and this letter are approved by our university's Institutional Review Board which is responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of human research participants for all research activities conducted by UMass Lowell faculty and staff.

Please fill out the form on the back of this letter, and have your child return it to her or his teacher. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Martin'.

Fred Martin, Associate Professor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Schilder'.

Diane Schilder, Principal Evaluator

Middle School Pathways in Computer Science” School Year Research Permission Form

With your permission, we can learn from your child’s participation in our curriculum development project. If the form is not returned, we will not include your child in our study. Your child will receive the same instruction in any case.

Please check below:

☐ Yes, I give my permission to include my child’s survey responses and work in your study.

☐ No, please exclude my child’s data from your study.

Your name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

We need the information below to find your child’s data:

Teacher’s name: _____

Child’s name: _____

Child’s birth month (2 digits) (e.g. for May, write “0 5”): _____