



Future of Agriculture Curriculum for Teaching Sustainability

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your son/daughter is invited to participate in the *Future of Agriculture Curriculum for Teaching Sustainability Project*—a research project that aims to develop research-based materials for teaching about sustainability, a topic that is already included in your school's regular agriscience curriculum.

Participation in the project involves having your child complete pre- and post assessments on this topic. Your child may participate in an audio or videotaped interview with researchers about his or her learning in agriscience class. The researchers may also observe and/or videotape your child's classroom, and writing samples (e.g., class assignments) may be photocopied for the study. Your child's school may share other information about your child and his/her classmates, such as standardized test scores.

The data collected in this study will allow researchers an opportunity to explore the effectiveness of materials for teaching about the carbon cycle. This will provide benefit to many students and teachers beyond those directly participating in the project. Students participating in this type of study may benefit from increased opportunity to have their ideas recognized and valued by adults, thus increasing students' self-esteem and their engagement in learning.

Participation in the study will not affect your child's grade—your child will not receive extra credit if you choose for your child to participate, nor will your child lose credit if you choose for your child not to participate. Your child will not be required to spend extra time outside of class for the purposes of this study except for the possibility of an interview. Students will be compensated with a gift card or cash if the student participates in an interview outside of regularly scheduled class time.

There are minimal risks associated with this study. Data from the study may be used in reports, articles, presentations, and in teacher education classes or teacher support materials. Your child's confidentiality will be protected to the maximum extent allowable by law. A pseudonym for your child will be used in any written or oral reports about this work. Your child's identity may be recognizable in videotapes or photographs of classroom lessons or interviews even though pseudonyms will be used to protect his/her identity. You may choose to have any segment of videotape or photograph in which your child is identifiable not used in the study or in products or presentations. Students expressing discomfort with being videotaped will not be included in the videotaping. The researchers will strictly observe confidentiality procedures and all information about your child's identity will be kept in a secure location in the researchers' custody and only accessible by MSU researchers and Institutional Review Board members.

Your son/daughter's participation in this project is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw your permission for his/her participation at any time and for any reason during the project period (June 2019 - June 2020). Additionally, we will ask each child to also provide his/her assent for participation. He/she is free to refuse to share any of their work with the researchers at any time. A copy of the research results after this project is completed will be given to you at your request. Your decision not to participate or decision to discontinue the participation will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

Your confidentiality will be protected to the maximum extent allowable by law. The data will be stored in locked filing cabinets at 319A Erickson Hall, East Lansing, MI and on secure servers at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO for at least 3 years after project closes. The project investigators will have access to the data for research purposes. At Michigan State University, an Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews all research

studies that involve human subjects before the research can be started. Their mission is to protect the rights of research participants. IRB will have access to the research data and results.

If you have concerns or questions about this study, such as scientific issues, how to do any part of it, or to report an injury (i.e. physical, psychological, social, financial, or otherwise), please contact Craig Kohn, 620 Farm Lane, Rm 313, East Lansing, MI 48824, kohncrai@msu.edu, or Dr. Charles W. (Andy) Anderson, 319A Erickson Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI 48824, (517) 432-4648, andya@msu.edu.

You have read about the goals of this project and the nature of your child's participation in it. Please read the options described below, initial the options for which you give consent for your child's participation, and sign and return the form to your child's classroom teacher. While the agriscience topics under study are part of the regular class curriculum, participating in the research aspects (sharing their work, video & audio taping, and interview) is voluntary.

Your initials give voluntary permission for your child to participate in the activities you have indicated below (PLEASE INITIAL EACH LINE YOU APPROVE):

_____ The researchers may observe your child during agriscience class, using notes to keep track of interactions.

_____ The researchers may audio and/or videotape agriscience lessons involving your child.

_____ The researchers may interview your child about his or her learning in agriscience class. This will take place at a time that is judged educationally sound by the teacher. Interviews will be approximately 30 minutes long and be audio or video-recorded. If interviews are arranged with you and your child either before or after school, your child will be compensated with a gift card.

_____ The researchers may keep copies of your child's written work in agriscience (including pre- and post-assessments and classroom work). These documents will be held in confidence. Any examples of your child's work that appear in any publication will have your child's identity disguised.

I voluntarily agree to allow my child to participate in this study.

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____
(please print)

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____



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