

Research Consent—Parent/Guardian



Dear Parent or Guardian:

August 16, 2016

My name is Susan Hershberger. I am leading a project of the Center for Chemistry Education at Miami University called Fighting with Food: Battling Chemical Toxicity with Good Nutrition. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the project teaches students about current health research and how good food choices reduce health risks from everyday, low levels of exposure to environmental toxins. I invite you to allow your student to participate in a research study to help us learn how students respond to the information presented through the Fighting with Food project.

Your student's science teacher, Brendan Ross, is helping us conduct this research study and is also a subject of the study. Mr. Ross is using classroom units that we have designed to teach students about nutrition and environmental health in addition to covering standard objectives for your student's science course.

As part of their required classroom work, students will be answering questions on tests and questionnaires and recording foods eaten during school hours on certain days. We ask for your permission to collect and analyze your student's responses for the research study. With your consent, your child's responses to one or more of the items listed below will be included in the study.

- Questionnaires about students as science learners and about collaboration and inquiry in the classroom.
- Assessments of students' knowledge about topics covered in the Fighting with Food lessons.
- Food logs to look at students' food choices during the school day and student awareness of disease fighting foods being introduced in the lessons.

We also request permission to share photographs of students working on classroom activities with the agency funding this project. Even if you consent to your student's participation now, you may withdraw your student from the research project at any time without penalty.

Even with your agreement, it is always your student's choice to share information. Each student will have the opportunity to sign an "assent" form indicating that the research study has been explained and that he/she chooses to provide responses to the study. A student's participation or lack of participation in the research study will in no way affect the grade he/she receives on classroom work. Names will be removed from all student work used in the project. At no time will any student be identified by name in photographs or in public reporting of this research. All student responses will be treated confidentially, securely stored, and viewed only by project researchers.

If you consent to your child's responses being used in the study, please fill out and sign the form on the next page and return it to your student's teacher before August 31, 2016. If you have further questions about the study, please contact Susan Hershberger at (513) 529-4961 or hershbs@miamioh.edu. If you have questions about your student's rights as a research participant, please call the Office of Advancement of Research and Scholarship at 529-3600 or email: humansubjects@muohio.edu. Thank you for your participation. Please keep this letter for future reference. We are very grateful for your help and hope that your student will enjoy finding out how good food choices can help us live healthier lives.

Sincerely,

Susan Hershberger

Research Consent—Parent/Guardian



PARENTAL RIGHT TO CONSENT TO PARTICIPATION OF STUDENT IN PROJECT STUDY

Please fill out and sign this form and return it to your student's teacher before 8-31-16. By checking **MAY** for any of the activities listed below, you agree to have your child's responses **included** in the *Fighting with Food* study being conducted by Miami University. If **MAY NOT** is checked, your child's responses will **not be included** in the study.

Questionnaire Responses

- ☐ You **MAY** include his/her questionnaire responses in the research study.
- ☐ You **MAY NOT** include his/her questionnaire responses in the research study.

Science Assessment

- ☐ You **MAY** include his/her responses to the science assessment in the research study.
- ☐ You **MAY NOT** include his/her responses to the science assessment in the research study.

Food Log Responses

- ☐ You **MAY** include his/her food log responses in the research study.
- ☐ You **MAY NOT** include his/her food log responses in the research study.

Photographs of him/her working on classroom activities

- ☐ You **MAY** share photographs of him/her working on classroom activities.
- ☐ You **MAY NOT** share photographs of him/her working on classroom activities.

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Informed Assent by Students



Dear Student:

My name is Susan Hershberger. I am leading a project of the Center for Chemistry Education at Miami University called *Fighting with Food: Battling Chemical Toxicity with Good Nutrition*. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the project teaches students about current health research and how good food choices reduce health risks from everyday, low levels of exposure to environmental toxins. I invite you to participate in a research study to help us learn how students like you respond to the information presented through the *Fighting with Food* project.

Your science teacher, Brendan Ross, is helping us conduct this research study and is also a subject of the study. Mr. Ross will be teaching you about nutrition and environmental health in addition to covering standard objectives for your science course. This classwork, including tests, questionnaires, and a daily log of food eaten during the school day that your teacher will be asking you to keep, will be a normal part of your school requirements and is *not* voluntary.

So, you may be asking, "What *is* voluntary?" As part of this project we will be collecting and studying student responses on the tests, questionnaires, and food logs to help us find out what you and your classmates are learning about nutrition and toxins. Photographs of students working in the classroom may also be taken to share with the funding agency. Student names will be removed from any of the information we collect and no one will be identified by name in photographs. You have taken home a letter explaining all this to your parents. Even if your parents give permission for your responses to be included in this research study, you can still decide not to have your responses used.

By signing below, you show that you have been told about the research project and that you voluntarily assent to have your responses on the tests, questionnaires, and food logs included in the research. If you do not want your responses to be included, do not sign, and they will not be included. Your grade will not be affected in any way by your decision.

We are grateful for your help and hope that you will enjoy finding out how good food choices can help us live healthier lives.

Sincerely,

Susan Hershberger

Student Signature

Date

