

PARENT CONSENT

Participate in Research Study

Integrating STEM and Digital Literacies with Adolescents (Project STEM+L)

Principal Investigator: Ji Shen, University of Miami

Dear Parents or Guardians:

Faculty members from the Department of Teaching and Learning at the University of Miami are conducting a research study. Your child has expressed an interest in taking part in this study. We are writing to you to ask for your consent to allow your child to do so.

The study will take place in the summer camp during (Aug. 6th -10th) hosted at the University of Miami. During the camp days, the students will attend the program at the University of Miami (UM) from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The program will also have a Fall Extension component, where the students can choose to come on Saturdays (9:30am-12:00pm) during the fall to continue working on their projects.

What is the purpose of this study? We are trying to learn more about students learning processes and how to help them develop knowledge, skills, and interests in reading, writing, and STEM learning. Participating students will take different roles (e.g., scientist, designer, and writer) and work with each other in small groups to produce multi-media science fictions. Appropriate learning resources, technology training, and science benchmark lessons will be provided while students develop their final products.

What is my child's involvement? If you agree to let your child take part in this study, your child will need to participate in the summer camp and fall extension. We will ask your child to work with 2-3 peers to co-develop a multi-media science fiction. We will videotape your child's interactions with the computer programs and his or her peers as they work together. All videotaped records will be kept in a secured location (the PI's office at UM) that the research team has access to. Occasionally during the project period, we will interview your child for about 20 minutes about his or her experiences in the group activities. This will take place during the program. We will also administer online surveys three times throughout the program duration. We will also collect any student work that occurs during the activities to examine how students develop integrated literacy while working on the project.

What risks are there in this study? To the best of our knowledge, there are no known risks to participating in this study.

How does my child benefit from taking part in this study? We cannot guarantee any direct benefits to your child. We believe active participation in the project will help students develop one or more of the following (a) literacy skills and STEM knowledge; (b) the opportunity to develop creativity; (c) the ability to develop leadership and technical skills; (d) the opportunity to collaborate with peers to create a unique digital

product to share with others.

What about confidentiality? All the information that we gather for this study will be kept strictly confidential and will be kept in the researchers' office or on password-protected computers. Only researchers involved in the study will have access to the data. The information may be looked at and/or copied for research or regulatory purposes by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), other government agencies, or other University of Miami employees for audit and/or monitoring purposes.

The results of the research study may be shared for educational purposes at academic conferences, lectures, or through publications; but the published results will be presented in summary form only or without individually-identifiable information.

Are there any costs or payments? There is no cost to participate in the research. We will not pay you or your child for participation in the research.

What if I say no? What if I or my child change our minds and say no later? Your child's participation in this study is voluntary. You or your child may discontinue participation in the study without explanation or negative consequences to him or her. Your child's participation in this study will have no effect on his or her grades or standing in school or the summer camp.

Who do I contact for more information? You may contact us at any time with questions about the study and your child's participation in the study. Dr. Ji Shen can be reached by phone at (305) 284-4970 or by email at j.shen@miami.edu. **If you have any questions on you/ your child's rights as a research subject, you may contact the University of Miami Human Subjects Research Office at 305-243-3195.**