

Permission Slip for Student to Participate in Online Discussion Boards and Blogs

In order to effectively integrate the 21st century technology that students are using, Ms. Parnakian is piloting the use of online discussion boards and blogs as educational tools. The ability to use the Internet as a communication and learning tool is an essential life skill that all students should possess in the 21st century. As a result, I selected the use of discussion boards and blogs for the following reasons:

- Discussion boards are often used in college courses and employment for the dissemination of information and assignments.
- Participation in a discussion board allows students to share opinions and ideas with their classmates and teachers in an authentic and respectful way.
- Journaling in a blog, instead of on paper, allows the student to express their thoughts and ideas.
- Blogs serve as powerful statements of students' academic progress, analytical thinking, and communication skills. They encourage students to engage in academic discourse in rigorous and relevant ways.
- Teacher monitoring of blogging serves to model appropriate and safe online behavior.

Ms. Parnakian is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students. The discussion board and blog sites used are kid-friendly sites specifically designed for student use. No personal information about students is disseminated or accessible by those outside the learning community. All blogs and discussion boards used in Ms. Parnakian's class will be hosted on ClassChatter.com and student participation is private and closely monitored by the assigning teacher. The teacher has also shared rules on acceptable use with his/her class. Parents/Guardians may gain access to the site by contacting the teacher for specific login information.

Since the use of discussion boards and blogs is a way of differentiating instruction, there is always an alternative assignment for students/guardians who wish not to participate in the online activity. To ensure that every student that participates in these online discussions does so with the consent of their parents, I ask that you review the rules with your student and sign this form to give your consent.

I have read and agree to the blogging terms and conditions and give my consent for my student to participate.

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

I have read and agree to the blogging terms and conditions.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Blogging Terms and Conditions

1. Students using the blog are expected to act safely by keeping personal information out their posts. Students agree **not** to post or give out family names, passwords, user names, email addresses, home address, or other information that could help someone locate or contact them in person.
2. Students using the blog agree **not** to share their user name, password, or pseudonym with anyone besides their parents and teachers.
3. Students using the blog are expected to treat the blog space as classroom space. Speech that is inappropriate for class is also inappropriate for the blog. While it is hoped that students engage in conversation with other class bloggers, it is expected that they will conduct themselves in a manner reflective of a representation of their school.
4. The blog is a form for student expression. However, it is first and foremost a tool for learning, and will be edited for content and appropriateness.
5. The blog is to be a vehicle for sharing student opinions, ideas and thoughts with real audiences. Please note that not all responses to a post will align with the poster's opinion. Be prepared to agree to disagree.
6. Students who do **not** abide by these terms and conditions may lose their opportunity to take part in this project.