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**Letter to Parents**

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Dear Parent,

We are very pleased to announce that North Allegheny is working with Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Academy on a "Computer Science Summer Camp Project". The Robotics Academy's goal with this project is to integrate computer science principles and computational thinking practices modules into existing robotics curriculum. This partnership provides our District with teacher training, updated curriculum, and software at no cost to our district. The project gives our teachers the opportunity to give feedback on the curriculum and software and enables our District to tailor the curriculum to our needs. The general procedures of the project are described below. You are being sent this letter so that you are aware of the work being done and are given the opportunity to ask additional questions if you have them.

**Procedures**

Students that participate in this camp will be taught by teachers working with Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy. The camp uses curricular tools and resources that have been developed by Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Academy. Some lessons will be presented by our teachers and at other times students will log into a Carnegie Mellon server and use robotics simulation software provided by Carnegie Mellon. The simulation software has been thoroughly tested and is being used by hundreds of schools across the United States. One of the goals of this project is to significantly increase the simulation software's ability to teach how to program robotics and teach computational thinking practices.

Teachers who run the camp will create a camp roster by uploading an excel spreadsheet that includes:

- the group login password,
- a personal ID number for each student (this ID number is often the same ID number that the school uses to identify individual students, the number is created by the teacher),
- Last Name of each student,
- First Name of each student,

This file enables the teacher to setup an online class list and follow individual student's progress during the camp. When students log into the system for the first time they are prompted to change the teacher assigned password and to create an individual student password. They are also requested to create a unique pseudonym (a fake name) that they will use for the camp. The research data the team collects does not include any personally identifiable information about participants and the project does not capture a user's IP address. All data is stored on a secure CMRA server that only trained research staff have access to.

Your child has no obligation to participate in this study or share their information. Students that elect not to participate in the study will have the same free access to curriculum, curricular resources and software that are being made available to students that agree to participate in the study. If a student begins the study and then changes their mind about sharing their progress they will be able to log into their settings and change their settings to "do not share my data".

### Time Required

Activities will span approximately 20 hours. Each activity is designed to be completed in about one hour. The Carnegie Mellon server is designed to save a student's progress so that they can begin each lesson where they left off the last time they were working.

### Participant Requirements

Participation in this study is limited to students that have logged into the Carnegie Mellon server.

### Risks

The risks and discomfort associated with participation in this study are no greater than those ordinarily encountered in a typical classroom or other online activities. The research project collects data associated to student pseudonym. This data is only available to researchers. When researchers publish papers from this study they will not be using actual names student names.

### Benefits

There may be no personal benefit to your child from participation in this study but the knowledge and skills that they receive may be of valuable in the emerging economy, they will learn how to program virtual robots, how to apply mathematical solutions to problems, modern engineering practices, problem solving techniques, and scientific ways of thinking.

### Confidentiality

The data captured for the research does not include any personally identifiable information about your child. The child's IP address will not be captured.

By participating in this research, you understand and agree that Carnegie Mellon may be required to disclose data and other personally identifiable information as required by law, regulation, subpoena or court order. Otherwise, the data collected from the study will be kept on a secure server at Carnegie Mellon University and will only be accessible to the researchers conducting the study.

### Right to Ask Questions & Contact Information

If you have any questions about this study, you should feel free to ask them by contacting the Principal Investigator.

Robin Shoop  
10 40<sup>th</sup> Street  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15238  
Phone 412-352-6592  
email [rshoop@cmu.edu](mailto:rshoop@cmu.edu)

If you have questions pertaining to your rights as a research participant; or to report objections to this study, you should contact the Office of Research integrity and Compliance at Carnegie Mellon University. Email: [irb-review@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:irb-review@andrew.cmu.edu) . Phone: 412-268-1901 or 412-268-5460.

### Voluntary Participation

Student and teacher participation in this research is voluntary. They may discontinue participation at any time during the research activity.