October 13, 2016

Dear Administrator, Parents/Guardians, Support Staff, and Students:

 I am currently enrolled in the graduate program at Northern State University. As a graduate student I am required to conduct a research project in my area of study, music education, which will benefit me in my profession as well as my students. I am requesting your permission to ask your student(s) currently enrolled in High School Choir at Ipswich School to participate in my research by completing a survey during one of our regular class periods.

 With your permission, I will request all students to review the research procedures, purpose of the research study and potential benefits – all of which are outlined below. After reviewing that information, students will be asked to sign the permission form and mark either ‘yes’, they would like to participate, or ‘no’, they would like to decline. Students needing assistance in understanding the information will be assisted one on one by staff in the resource area. After this process is complete, I will distribute the survey during their regular choir rehearsal. If students need longer to complete the survey, they will be able to do so the next day during the same period.

 Research Study: The name of my study is “Parental Involvement and Music Attitudes of Vocal Music Students. The purpose of this qualitative study will be to discover the role parental involvement has in the attitudes of high school vocal music students towards musical achievement and future involvement in vocal music at Ipswich High School. Participants in the study will be students currently involved in high school choir at Ipswich High School. Data will be collected through a survey. The data will be compiled and analyzed in order to look for possible trends. As I, their teacher, am able to gain more knowledge and understanding of how the subjects, my students, view musical achievement and the role of parental involvement in their musical education and endeavors, I will be able to better meet their needs and develop a curriculum that will support and scaffold successful learning and experiences. I will be able to identify similarities between student perceptions of parental involvement and student attitudes towards musical achievement which will aid in my understanding of how the students value music education.

 Research Procedure:

1. Receive consent from school administration.
2. Receive consent from parents/guardians.
3. Receive consent from support staff who can assist students with understanding what is being asked of them so they are fully aware before consenting to participate. The support staff will also be available to assist students who give consent to participate and will need assistance in understanding the survey questions.
4. Receive consent from the students.

If consent is not received by all parties involved, the student will not be asked to participate. If consent is given the student may still decline participation. Consenting students will complete a 12 question survey on their own during class and submit it in a locked file box. The only demographical information the students will be asked is grade and gender. Students will not be graded for participation in the survey. Participation is strictly free will.

 Data Analysis: Once surveys are submitted, I will analyze the responses. The results of the study will be submitted in a research report to my graduate professor and I will give a presentation to my colleagues in the graduate program. The report will also be available on my website [www.musicbyheartstudio@weebly.com](http://www.musicbyheartstudio@weebly.com) as part of my Master’s portfolio following completion of the fall semester.

 Please complete the consent form below and return it to me. If you have any questions, you may contact me via email at Charlene.blondo@k12.sd.us or by calling (605) 426-6561. Thank you for your time.

Musically Yours,

Charlene Blondo

**Administrator**

 Yes, I give consent for the research study.

 No, I do not give consent for the research study to be conducted. Reasoning:

 Signed Date

**Parent/Guardian**

 Yes, I give consent for (name of student(s)) to participate in the research study.

 No, I do not give consent for (name of student(s)) to participate in the research study.

 Signed Date

**Support Staff**

 Yes, I will serve as interpreter for students participating in the research study.

 No, I will not serve as interpreter for students participating in the research study.

 Signed Date

**Student**

 Yes, I give consent to participate in the research study.

 No, I do not give consent to participate in the research study.

 Signed Date