



TRINITY COLLEGE • HARTFORD • CONNECTICUT

300 Summit Street, Hartford, CT 06106-3100

August 1, 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian

We are writing to tell you about a course that your child is starting which is part of a research project funded by two grants, one from the National Science Foundation - *Mobile CSP: Using Mobile Learning to Teach Computer Science Principles in Schools* and one from Google - *Scaling Mobile Computer Science*. The course teaches students to use App Inventor – a programming language used to create apps for Android Smart Phones and Tablets. In addition to teaching programming, the course teaches students about the Internet and more generally about how computers are used in current society. The teaching materials used in the course are based on the Computer Science Principles curriculum, a framework that has been developed by the College Board as part of the new Advanced Placement course in Computer Science. Earlier versions of this curriculum have been taught at universities and high schools across the country over the last four years.

This past summer your child's teacher received College Board endorsed professional development training in the Mobile CSP curriculum, but in order to gauge the success of the Mobile CSP curriculum we need to collect information from the students (and teachers). We plan to use a survey at the beginning and end of the course to gather information about your child's attitudes about the course and about Computer Science. In addition, we need to examine the projects that the students prepare and exams they take and the grades they receive in order to see how well they learn the course material. All of this information will be completely confidential. We will assign each student with a randomly assigned number and will store all information about a student with that number and not their names. Any reports on the research will be in summary form in which no student is individually identifiable. The teachers will receive summary reports, but not information on individual students.

We are writing to you because we need your permission to collect this information since your child is under 18 years of age. We are asking your child for permission as well. You or your child can withhold this permission without affecting the grade your child receives in the course in any way. To provide permission, please sign the form that accompanies this letter, and have your child take it to his or her Computer Science teacher. We will collect the forms from the Computer Science teachers. The form describes the research and the risks it involves (which are minimal).

We hope very much that you will give your permission and sign the form. Thank you in advance.

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