

Dear Parents/Guardian,

Technology is continually changing and expanding. Podcasting is one new form of educational technology that has grown impressively in recent years. Your student's class has been selected to help pilot this new technological initiative this school year. The goal is to use podcasting to help students understand key curriculum concepts at a deeper level, while providing resources for other students to practice and internalize these same concepts. This goal will be attained by instructing students on the creation of both audio and video podcasts that are made available to a world-wide audience via the Internet. Once published, your students' podcasts are available for you to use as a tool in supporting your child's successful mastery of certain Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS).

What is a Podcast?

A podcast is like a radio show. However, instead of being broadcast live, a podcast is recorded and then distributed over the Internet, so that you can listen and/or view whenever you please. There are thousands of podcasts available, ranging from general interest entertainment shows to those which focus on specific topics (e.g. music/science/math).

How do children benefit from creating Podcasts?

- Develops listening, speaking, reading, math, and science skills.
- Provides a potential audience, thus increasing motivation to produce quality products.
- Reinforces prior learning by encouraging students to present their knowledge in a format others can understand.
- Increases comprehension with opportunities for repeated listening and/or viewing.

By facilitating the creation of podcasts, students will continue to support each other in mastery of the curriculum while obtaining real world skills.

Your permission is needed in order for your student to participate in the creation of video and/or audio podcasts individually and in groups. Should you decline this opportunity; an appropriate alternative assignment will be provided.

Please sign and return this form to your student's teacher. Thank you.

Please select one level of permission for the 20xx-20xx school year and provide your signature below:

_____ I *give* my student permission to **record** and **appear** in ***BOTH AUDIO AND VIDEO*** podcasts at school. These podcasts will be posted on the Internet for educational purposes.

_____ I *give* my student permission to **record *ONLY AUDIO*** podcasts at school. These podcasts will be posted on the Internet for educational purposes.

_____ I ***DO NOT*** give my child permission to record and/or appear in audio and video podcasts at school.

Child's Name: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Parent or Guardian Name (Printed) _____

Date: _____