

Dear parents,

We are happy to inform you that your child's teacher has been invited to participate in our **Nurturing Nature** research study. The study will be conducted by me, Professor Mary Helen Immordino-Yang, from the University of Southern California (USC), together with my team. We will be working together with your school's administrators and your child's teacher on a study of excellent teaching practices.

Your child may notice that his/her/their teacher may be observed on one or more occasions and possibly videotaped on these occasions. We do not envision any interruption to the class or to your child's learning experiences.

The aim of our study is to examine how teacher's practices may improve students' learning. In the course of the study, your child's school may release students' school records without students' names. The school will NOT tell us your child's name or any other information that would allow us to know your child's identity or personal information. As a part of the study of teachers' practices and skills, the classroom observers may document interactions between the teacher and students or may photograph student work anonymously. Students will not be identified in these data.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email the lead researcher, Prof. Immordino-Yang, at immordin@usc.edu. If needed, you can also contact the USC IRB at (323) 442-0114 or irb@usc.edu for rights of a research participant. Please quote the IRB number (UP-12-00206)

Thank you,

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