

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This year we will be making use of the resources available on the Internet to complete assignments and keep you informed about what is happening in the classroom. I know you receive many forms to fill out at the beginning of each year. In effort to reduce the paper work for you I have compiled a list of items in which I believe you should be aware, as well as ones in which your permission is needed. Safety is a primary concern when having your children use the internet for school work. More detailed information can be found on my websites about any of the topics listed below. I feel strongly that the items listed below will help break down the physical classroom walls and provide the students with a very unique educational experience. Please review the following items and grant your student the right to participate by signing and returning the bottom portion of this letter.

1. **Don't turn it in... Publish!** This is an idea taken from The Innovative Educator's Blog. In an effort to move away from the traditional audience of one (the teacher), we will be using various websites to publish student work. Often we will be using sites that can only be accessed by the members of HHS like Moodle or Google Docs. However, there will be occasions where students will be posting their work to sites like YouTube, Edublogs, Glogsters, or even Twitter.
2. **Cell Phones for Education?** There will be times when students will be permitted to use their personal cell phones for class projects. Typically classroom lessons take advantage of the cell phones text messaging capabilities, but there are other uses as well. Sites like Polleverywhere.com and Wifitti.com allow students to communicate with the internet via text messaging. Students have also used the picture or video taking capabilities of their phone in class. Last year my environmental class linked their phone to twitter and created a live stream of what they were learning while on a field trip to the Chesapeake Bay.
3. **Student Pictures.** I have become very fond of documenting student activities in class with both pictures and video. It is very easy to make a few minute video of various activities and place them on my website (via YouTube) for the students to share with their parents. Also, students in my environmental class sometime interview other students for documentaries that they make during the year. These projects might also contain pictures of students and be shared on my website. Once again, student information will not be associated with any pictures or video.
4. **Classroom Facebook.** Last year I started a classroom Facebook page for my students. The classroom updates that I send out show up on my wall. Friends of this account will see class updates in their home feed. Current students and their parents are welcome to friend request this page. If you are already a Facebook user this is the perfect way to keep up to date with your students science class. Parents please include your students name in a message when friend requesting me. Also, please make sure to request my classroom account and not my personal Facebook page. You can find more information on my website. <http://suter.hanoverpublic.org>

Please sign below so that I know you have read this information and have given your permission for your student to participate in the topics described above. For more detailed information visit my websites or feel free to call me at (717) 417-8837 (this is my personal Google Voice number). I would be more than happy to discuss any of the above items with you if you have further concerns. I am looking forward to a great year with your student!

Thank You,

I have read the parent information and permission form for Mr. Suter's class and give permission for my student to participate in the described activities.

Student Name _____

Parent Name _____

Date

Signature _____