

## **HIGHLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5**

Serving the Communities of Alhambra, Grantfork, Highland, New Douglas, and Pierron

**MICHAEL S. SUTTON**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



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February 4, 2019

Parents and Guardians

We have the opportunity to have some of our Highland Primary and Highland Elementary typically developing students participate in a research study. Graduate students at SIU Carbondale, under the supervision of our district behavior consultant, Dr. Mark Dixon, BCBA, will conduct the study. The study is also being done as a project for a thesis developed by Ms Jen Koenig, Highland Primary Special Education teacher, Autism classroom, Grades K thru 2.

Data will begin to be collected on Wednesday, February 6, 2019.

Each student who participates in the study would spend about 30 min working one on one with an assessor (a student from SIUC or Ms. Koenig) and complete some tasks that involve math, reading, basic thinking processes and memory. They would also complete very small portions of an IQ test.

The purpose of these tasks is to develop a typical developing student pool of data. These data help us understand how a child with autism of the same chronological age is similar or different from their peer group. It has potential to benefit both students with autism in Highland, and around the world if these data are eventually archived in a publication.

At no time would any child be identified in any report. No information from this project would be used for school placement decisions. No educational staff besides the researchers would have the information obtained in the project.

All SIUC students involved in the study have had background checks and have been fingerprinted.

You have the option to have your child "opt out" of the study. If you prefer that your child not take part, please sign below and return to your child's teacher no later than Wednesday, February 6, 2019.

  
Pam Tyler  
Director of Special Services

I do **not** want my child to be involved in the research study.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_