Dear Parent,

As you know, it is the mission of LCHS 9th Grade Campus to enhance learning and prepare students for the 21st century through the use of technology as a part of many of our lessons. I’m sure your child has shared many types of activities that we have done throughout this school year in my classroom. As a culminating project for the year, students will be analyzing various biomes throughout the world and incorporating those skills they have learned this year in addition to adding in a new skill: blogging. (Project guidelines are attached to this letter.)

A weblog, or blog for short, is a webpage in which user can post and update content and information quickly and easily. For our class purposes, we will be using KidBlog, a special blogging service in which I may moderate content and comments every user posts before it appears. In addition, KidBlog does not require any personal information from teachers or students in order to use their service.

Using a blog is beneficial for students because it allows them to have a real audience and will positively impact their literacy skills. I anticipate collaborating with students and teachers from around the country and world and, in addition, have them visit and possibly comment on the students’ blogs. I would also like to encourage parents to visit the blogs and respond to the posts. Furthermore, all students are required to recruit one trusted adult to comment on their blog.

Blog websites

1st Period<http://kidblog.org/1stEnvScience/>

3rd Period<http://kidblog.org/3rdEnvScience/>

4th Period<http://kidblog.org/4thEnvScience/>

5th Period<http://kidblog.org/5thEnvScience/>

6th Period<http://kidblog.org/6thEnvScience/>

Your child can also provide you with a direct link to a particular blog.

Blogging is also an excellent opportunity for students to review their digital literacy and internet safety skills. Please review and discuss the following guidelines with your child. Then, please sign off and return the attached form. If you would like some more information on blogging or have questions about the project, please feel free to email me.

Sincerely,

Natalie Crosby

**Blogging Guidelines and Rules**

**1.** **Students must never reveal personal information about themselves or others on the blog or in blog comments.** This includes last names, phone numbers, usernames for social media, addresses, and personal email addresses of themselves and others.

**2.** **Students must remember that blogs are published content on the web:  what happens on the web, stays on the web.** Students must first remember that they are publishing content that is public and should be work that they are proud of. In addition, anything published on the web is there forever and could be attached to them in the future.

**3.** **Students must treat others with respect.** When students post comments on another student’s blog, all comments must be appropriate, positive, and respectful in nature. All comments are moderated prior to appearing and any comments that are deemed inappropriate or rude will result in disciplinary action. In addition, students must remember to never disrespect anyone or anything, even if it’s not a person- it could be an idea, belief, or an organization.  Students should keep this idea in mind – Treat others the way you wish to be treated.

**4.** **Students must check posts for spelling and grammatical errors.** Again, blogs are permanent and students don’t want grammatical errors to be seen by a college admissions committee later.

**5.** **Students must be sure they are reporting factual information on their blog and provide references to the sources they have used.** Students should be sure they have read the information thoroughly prior to using it and ensure that it is appropriate content for all audiences. Students should also be aware of copyright and ownership guidelines.Not everything on the internet allows free rights for use.

**I have read the Blogging Guidelines and Rules and agree to uphold them. I understand that if I/my child fails to adhere to these guidelines, it could result in loss of internet privileges and disciplinary action.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_