

##### Leesville Road High School

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Raleigh, North Carolina 27613

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November 16, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Experiential learning is a powerful tool teachers can use in their classrooms. Often, it is through doing that students learn and retain information and expand their conceptual frameworks. In the past few years I have had some very positive experiences with incorporating these kinds of activities into my Civics & Economics and American II classes, and have observed complex simulations while advising the Model UN team. Last semester, I began running a social class simulation that Ms. Scioli, the other Honors Sociology teacher at LRHS, has been doing for over 15 years.

The purpose of this letter is to tell you a bit about the simulation and have you indicate whether you would like your child to participate or be an observer. Participants will be graded based on their participation and adherence to the rules. Observers will keep a journal of what they see happening each day and share their thoughts with the class. All students will be graded on their analysis of the simulation when it is over.

The simulation begins with a random assignment to a social class: upper, middle or lower. The goal of the simulation is to (as much as possible) have the interactions between the classes reflect reality in terms of opportunity and power. The social classes will make “laws”, and the upper classes will have more decision making power and the lower classes will have to work harder to gain influence. There are rules limiting what kind of laws can be passed. For example, laws cannot single out an individual, they cannot cost money, and they must all be approved by me. The simulation will run for about 2 weeks.

It should be noted that the simulation can create some stress when students are required to do something physically or socially out of their comfort zone. I will not allow anything that is inappropriate, disrespectful, or unreasonable. I will encourage the students to communicate any issues they have with me directly, but I also ask you to contact me immediately if you have any concerns. If you would like specific examples or more details, the students were provided a Simulation Overview that is also on my website for Sociology/Unit 7-Stratification.

Above all, I am asking you to have a little faith in me as a teacher who has taught at LRHS for 11 years, and a lot of faith in your knowledge of your child and their temperament. Whether they are a participant or an observer, I think they will learn a lot from the experience. Please indicate your preference below and I will be in touch if you want further information.

Thank you for considering this request!

Sincerely,

Nancy Snipes Mosley, M.A.-Ed, NBCT

Honors Sociology Teacher

Contact: nmosley@wcpss.net

Student’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please check any that apply: ❑ My child can be a participant ❑ My child can be an observer only

I would like more information. Please email me at: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_