What is Scratch?

Scratch is a programming language and an online community where children can program and share interactive media such as stories, games, and animation with people from all over the world. As children create with Scratch, they learn to think creatively, work collaboratively, and reason systematically. Scratch is designed and maintained by the Lifelong Kindergarten group at the MIT Media Lab.

Why am I using Scratch

Students can use Scratch to code their own interactive stories, animations, and games. In the process, they learn to think creatively, reason systematically, and work collaboratively — essential skills for everyone in today’s society.

Risks that Could Arise

During the registration process, they ask for the following information:

1. username - They ask that users avoid using their real names or other identifying information.
2. Country, birth month and year, gender
3. contact email address - If the account holder is younger than 13, we ask for the email address of their parent or guardian. We do not send email to this address except when someone requests to have the account password reset.

The username and country of the account holder are displayed publicly on their profile page. The birth month / year, email address, and gender associated with the account are not displayed publicly.

Please give consideration as to how this tool will enhance your child’s learning in our school. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. If you consent to your child’s use of Scratch as described above, please complete the form attached and return it to the school. Should you decide that you do not want your child to have access to this web 2.0 tool, please indicate that by checking off the appropriate opt out box on the attached form and an alternative will be provided without any affect to your child’s grade.

**PIPPA Information can be found on the School Acceptable Use Policy**

**Informed Consent**

Students will use Scratch to:

* Gain a further understanding of computer programing
* Build individual computer applications
* How to find and solve problems within computer programs (Debugging)

Guidelines for using Scratch:

* Be respectful: When sharing projects or posting comments, remember that people of many different ages and backgrounds will see what you’ve shared.
* Be constructive: When commenting on others' projects, say something you like about it and offer suggestions.
* Share: You are free to remix projects, ideas, images, or anything else you find on Scratch – and anyone can use anything that you share. Be sure to give credit when you remix.
* Keep personal info private: For safety reasons, don't give out any information that could be used for private communication - such as real last names, phone numbers, addresses, email addresses, links to social media sites or websites with unmoderated chat.
* Be honest: Don’t try to impersonate other Scratchers, spread rumors, or otherwise try to trick the community.
* Help keep the site friendly: If you think a project or comment is mean, insulting, too violent, or otherwise inappropriate, click “Report” to let us know about it.

Please choose one of the following, if you feel that you do not have enough information to make an informed decision, please contact the teacher to discuss further:

[ ] My child agrees to the rules for using Scratch

[ ] I do not agree to the use of Scratch and I am aware it may result in separate assignment(s).

We understand the privacy risks and management strategies as they have been shared with us.

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Parent Signature Date

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Student Signature Date

By typing your name on the line above, you agree that it is to be a representation of your physical signature.